



**Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program**

**FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION**  
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# NRCS EWP Program

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection>

## What is it?

- Offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by natural disasters that impair a watershed.
- NRCS provides services post event for reducing continued threats

## What are the project criteria?

- Protection from flooding or soil erosion
- Reduce threats to life and property
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment
- Economically and environmentally defensible.



## NRCS EWP Program

### ■ Who is eligible?

- **A disaster needs to be declared** either by the State Conservationist for small local disasters, or a federal or state disaster declaration.
- **A private landowner must work through a local sponsor**, that meets the requirements, typically a state, local or tribal government.
- Project must demonstrate a **reduction in threats to life and property**. Property is considered infrastructure such as buildings and dams

### ■ What is not eligible?

- Crop land, forest land
- Infrastructure that is not directly tied to private landowner risk
  - An example would be replacing a bridge to a field that was damaged.



## NRCS EWP Program

- Other information:
  - Recovery is to be completed within 220 days.
  - The EWP program is only a partial funding source and is a reimbursement program at 75% for most projects or 90% for Limited Resource Areas (LRAs)
  - A sponsor is required and must meet criteria such as obtaining land rights for repairs, securing permits, responsibility for operation and maintenance...



## NRCS EWP Program

Example Projects from past:

- Post flooding that moved the stream channel and a permanent residence is now in threat of collapsing into the stream due to rapid soil erosion.
- Post fire threat of flood and debris for homeowners or city.



# NRCS EWP Program

## Active EWP Projects

December 2025 Western Washington Floods:  
Accepting EWP Requests from Sponsors  
January 8, 2026 – March 9, 2026

Currently have 4 official sponsor requests for over 10 projects.

Actively going through the EWP process including Damage Survey Reports for each identified project.



Questions?



**WA NRCS, Engineering Updates | February 2026**  
**Lynelle Knehans, State Conservation Engineer**

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