After the Disaster
Emergency Watershed Protection program

The Program
The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program helps protect against imminent threats to lives and property caused by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires. The program is administered by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which provides technical and financial assistance to eliminate those threats.

Traditional Types of Assistance
EWP provides funding to project sponsors for such work as removing debris from streams, protecting destabilized streambanks, establishing cover on critically eroding lands and the purchase of flood plain easements. The program is designed for installation of recovery measures. The measures that are taken must be environmentally and economically sound. NRCS provides up to 75 percent of the funds needed to treat disaster related impairments that restore watershed functions to the pre-disaster condition. The sponsor is responsible for the remaining 25 percent, which can be provided by cash or in-kind services.

Eligibility
Owners, managers, and users of public, private, or tribal lands may apply for EWP assistance if their watershed area has been damaged by a natural disaster, resulting in imminent danger to life or property.

Sponsors
Each EWP project requires a sponsor who applies for the assistance. A sponsor can be any legal subdivision of State or local government, including local officials of city, county governments and agencies of state government, Indian tribes, and soil conservation districts. They determine priorities for emergency assistance while coordinating work with other Federal and local agencies. Sponsors are needed to provide legal authority to do repair work, obtain necessary permits, contribute funds or in-kind services, and maintain the completed emergency measures.

For More Information
For more information on assistance under the Emergency Watershed Protection program, contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service local office serving your county. Your USDA Service Center is listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Idaho
Natural Resources Conservation Service
nrcs.usda.gov/