



April 1, 2019

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)

The NRCS Caribbean Area Team is committed to providing emergency assistance to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) via the **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)**. EWPP helps conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property. In the Caribbean Area, EWPP is clearing and repairing waterways impacted by hurricanes Irma and María in September 2017. Through EWPP, NRCS is partnering with land stewards, land owners and local government agencies to assess and implement conservation practices in priority areas. Partners include municipalities, conservation districts and territorial government agencies. NRCS also works with FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical support to effectively address local needs, and with potential sponsors to conduct outreach and discuss each individual municipality’s priorities.

EWP Status Update:

In the months after hurricanes Irma & María, over **1,000** watershed sites were assessed by NRCS teams. Of those, **442** were selected as exigency projects (in need of immediate clearing). NRCS-completed damage survey reports (DSRs) for exigency work to remove debris from these sites estimated the cost to be over **\$31 million dollars**. NRCS also identified over **383** sites needing non-exigency work for debris removal, erosion control, stream bank stabilization and other conservation practices to restore stream hydrologic conditions.

For more information, contact NRCS Caribbean Area Director, Edwin Almodóvar, at 787-370-1703 or Edwin.Almodovar@pr.usda.gov.



EWPP-2018 VI-STT-001: Savan Gut, Saint Thomas, VI

Above: St. Thomas EWPP project 001, Savan Gut in downtown Charlotte Amalie, completed July 26, 2018.

	# Exigency Completed	# Exigency Underway	# Non-exigency	Debris Removed (yd ³)	Lives at-risk saved	Properties at-risk saved
Puerto Rico	249	124	381	204,919	5,352	5,250
USVI	20	8	2	5,081	424	604

For More Information:

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