



United States Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Georgia

**EMERGENCY WATERSHED  
PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWP)  
EMERGENCY RECOVERY PLAN**



MARCH 2017

# EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWP)

## Emergency Recovery Plan (ERP)

### GEORGIA

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# EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWP)

## Emergency Recovery Plan

GEORGIA

March 2017

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides EWP assistance to address imminent threats to life and property as a result of natural disasters causing a sudden impairment within a watershed. This may include natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, windstorms, fires, drought, and ice storms.

This Emergency Recovery Plan provides guidelines that address the response, actions, and inter-agency coordination that NRCS Georgia will follow when an emergency is declared and the Emergency Watershed Protection program is implemented

This EWP Emergency Recovery Plan for Georgia is hereby approved on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TERRANCE O. RUDOLPH  
State Conservationist

# I INTRODUCTION TO THE EMERGENCY WATERSHED RECOVERY PLAN

This document serves two purposes: (1) to briefly describe the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) and (2) to outline an Emergency Recovery Plan for Georgia that will enhance communication, cooperation and coordination with various agencies when dealing with future natural disasters.

## Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has an emergency recovery program referred to as the “Emergency Watershed Protection Program” (EWP). NRCS may provide technical and financial assistance to communities for restoring watershed functions damaged by natural disasters. Typical disasters include: floods, windstorms, fires, ice storms and drought.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the program through the following authorities:

Responsibility for the program was assigned to the Secretary of Agriculture and delegated to the Chief of NRCS. State Conservationists administer EWP in their respective states and have sole authority to declare watershed emergencies. A Presidential disaster declaration is not necessary for NRCS to implement the EWP program.

All applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations must be adhered to in carrying out emergency watershed protection measures.

Funding for the EWP program is not a budgeted line item. Funding for this program is in the form of supplemental appropriations from Congress on an as needed and as available basis. Therefore, funding to carry out this program is never guaranteed to be available at all times.

## Program Criteria

The Emergency Watershed Program is available to assist the recovery effort in local communities whenever a natural disaster occurs creating a sudden watershed impairment causing an imminent threat to life and/or property. Normal rainfall events and normal maintenance do not meet these criteria.

NRCS may be involved in three different types of emergencies:

- Presidential / Federal Declared Disaster
- State Declared Disaster
- Local Disaster

Through Public Law 93-288 (Stafford Act) the President of the United States can declare an area a “major disaster area”. When this occurs, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for coordinating all federal disaster activities.

In the absence of a presidentially declared event and when conditions warrant, the Governor may declare a state emergency. The NRCS State Conservationist may declare a local emergency when conditions warrant. FEMA may not necessarily be involved in state and local disasters, creating a greater coordination role for NRCS. It is the NRCS Program Manager’s responsibility to keep FEMA and Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) informed of NRCS emergency activities when involved in a local disaster.

### Types of Emergencies

There are two categories of emergencies within the EWP program, "Exigency" and "Non-Exigency". The NRCS definition of "Exigency" is a situation where immediate response is required to protect against an imminent threat to life and/or property. The definition of imminent refers to a subsequent natural occurrence of the same intensity or less that would cause significant damage to property and/or threaten human life. The term "property" pertains to significant infrastructure: i.e., dwellings, office buildings, utilities, bridges and roads. NRCS has 10 days to complete the work once there is access to the site. A site considered an exigency may be stabilized and then be considered a non-exigency site. All others will be called "Non Exigencies" and must be completed within 220 days of the date funds are received.

### Typical Measures

Typical NRCS measures for natural disasters in Georgia have been debris removal and stream bank stabilization projects that protect structures and utilities and restore normal hydraulic characteristics to the stream. The program has also been used to repair damages to watershed dams constructed using the Small Watershed Program funds where operation and maintenance at the site was up to date.

### EWP Eligibility

*To be eligible as an EWP site the following questions must be answered YES:*

Has there been an unusual event that has caused a sudden impairment in the watershed?

Has the impairment caused an imminent threat to life and/or property?

Can the imminent threat to life and/or property be removed with the proposed action?

Is there an eligible sponsor willing to contribute 25 percent of the costs toward the project, obtain necessary permits, assume the operation and maintenance, and acquire the necessary easements? (Note: a sponsor is not needed to participate in the floodplain easement program.)

### EWP Ineligibility

*EWP funds cannot be used for the following:*

Provide recovery assistance to a site more than twice in any ten-year period.

Perform operation and maintenance, or solve watershed problems that existed before the disaster.

Repair, rebuild, or maintain public or private transportation facilities, or correct damage to transportation facilities eligible for assistance under the Emergency Relief Program administered by Federal Highway Administration of the Department of Transportation.

Perform EWP work on land owned by and/or managed by other federal departments and agencies. (The only exception is land managed by the Forest Service).

Repair erosion damage to beaches, dunes, and shorelines damaged by erosion as a result of wave action.

Landscape for aesthetic purposes.

Remove sediment or debris from reservoirs or debris basins. (This is considered operation and maintenance, regardless of ownership).

Rebuilding or protecting when there isn't anything left to protect.

Drilling wells, constructing pipelines, installing irrigation equipment, or purchasing portable equipment to address drought.

Definitions

The following terms are used throughout this Emergency Recovery Plan:

Local Contact	The local contact is generally the NRCS district conservationist for the affected area. However, in areas without an assigned district conservationist, other NRCS positions may fill the role of the local contact. The local contact understands the basics of the EWP program and eligibility criteria and performs the ongoing work of establishing key contacts and potential sponsors for future EWP projects.
EWP Area Coordinator	Responsible for the coordination of EWP field work, provides leadership, coordination and scheduling of EWP field staff, including DSR assessments, contracting, construction, and inspection
Sponsor	A qualifying local unit or subdivision of state government, city, county, tribe or conservation district.
EWP Program Manager	Responsible for providing leadership and oversight of the EWP program.
State Conservationist	Responsible for all NRCS activities and programs in the state of Georgia.
Damage Survey Report (DSR)	Serves as NRCS documentation that the site has been evaluated. The DSR documents damages, proposed work, economic, social and environmental defensibility, sketches of the site, standard drawings, maps, photos, GPS data and other information as needed. Every site will have a DSR completed.
DSR Team	An NRCS interdisciplinary team that completes the DSR. The DSR team may include non-NRCS members i.e. sponsor representative, and other technical agency personnel.

## II SPONSORS RESPONSIBILITIES

*To implement the EWP program, NRCS must work through a local sponsor. A sponsor must be:*

A local unit or subdivision of state government, State government,  
Other governmental entity such as a conservation district, city or Indian tribe.

In Georgia, NRCS has worked with counties, cities and waters conservation districts on previous disasters and emergencies. Counties have sponsored the majority of the projects.

### Sponsor Responsibilities

- Submit an initial written request to the State Conservationist requesting NRCS assistance within 60 days after the event (See "Appendix A" for an example). Assign a technical and administrative contact to address necessary correspondence and provide information to the local NRCS contact.
- Possess legal authority to obtain and certify land rights.
- Acquire all necessary permits before construction begins.
- Ensure utilities are located and appropriate easements have been acquired before construction begins. Easements must include initial construction and Operation and Maintenance.
- Enter into a written agreement with NRCS outlining responsibilities and obligations. EWP funds may not be used to reimburse sponsors for work carried out prior to the signing of a project agreement by the sponsors and NRCS.
- Agree to provide for the operation and maintenance of completed structural measures (operation and maintenance may not be delegated to the private landowner). NRCS will supply the sponsor with an operation & maintenance plan.
- Provide 25 percent of project costs (cash and/or approved in-kind).
- Sponsors may serve or have a representative on the DSR team.
- Set priorities for order of work to be completed with the DSR team. Sponsors assist NRCS in setting the scheduling priorities of work to be completed.
- Sign off on completed work

### Cost Share

NRCS funds can provide up to 75 percent of the construction costs of emergency measures. Eligible US Forest Service projects are funded at 100 percent and the funds are transferred between the agencies at the national level.

### III AGENCIES ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### AGENCY CONTACTS

##### **NRCS (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service)**

*Diane Guthrie, 706-546-2277, [diane.guthrie@ga.usda.gov](mailto:diane.guthrie@ga.usda.gov)*

*Cran Upshaw, 706-546-2072, [cran.upshaw@ga.usda.gov](mailto:cran.upshaw@ga.usda.gov)*

*Molly Dawson, 706-546-2091, [molly.dawson@ga.usda.gov](mailto:molly.dawson@ga.usda.gov)*

##### **GEMA (Georgia Emergency Management Agency)**

*Terry Lunn, 404-635-7016/800-TRY-GEMA, [terry.lunn@gema.ga.gov](mailto:terry.lunn@gema.ga.gov)*

##### **USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)**

*Sandy Tucker, 706-613-9493 (x30), [sandy\\_tucker@fws.gov](mailto:sandy_tucker@fws.gov)*

*Robin Goodlow, 706-613-9493 (x30), [robin\\_goodlow@fws.gov](mailto:robin_goodlow@fws.gov)*

##### **Ga. DNR (Georgia Department of Natural Resources)**

*Michael Berry, 404-675-62406, [michael\\_berry@l.dnr.state.gov.us](mailto:michael_berry@l.dnr.state.gov.us)*

##### **USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)**

*Gary Craig, 678-422-2728, [Gary.L.Craig@sas02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Gary.L.Craig@sas02.usace.army.mil)*

*David Lekson, 912-652-5047, [David.M.Lekson@sas02.usace.army.mil](mailto:David.M.Lekson@sas02.usace.army.mil)*

##### **FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)**

*Stephanie Madson, 770-220-5387, [Stephanie.Madson@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Madson@fema.dhs.gov)*

*Eric Thurston, 770-220-8817, [Eric.Thurston@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Eric.Thurston@fema.dhs.gov)*

#### SPONSORS

##### **LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT**

##### **OTHER PARTICIPATING AGENCIES / GROUPS**

Ga. Dept. of Transportation (GA. DOT)  
Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources DNR (WRD, NHP, EPD)  
Law Enforcement Agencies  
Professional and Trade Organizations  
Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACDS)  
USDA Forest Service (USFS)

Ga. State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO)  
Ga. Forestry Commission  
Regional Development Commissions (RDC's)  
State Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's)  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
NWS (River Forecast Center)

## AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

### Federal Agencies:

#### USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Administer the EWP for the purpose of assisting sponsors and individuals in implementing recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.

- Will serve as lead agency for EWP
- Respond to Sponsor/GEMA's request for assistance
- Coordinate with all agencies and groups
- Conduct agency coordination
- Conduct initial site assessments
- Identify potential DSR sites
- Determine eligibility and defensibility
- Secure funding for 75% of construction costs
- Certify on completed projects Page 7 Sponsor responsibilities, Concur with sponsor on DSR(s) completed according to engineers plan(s) see p. 16

#### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is a federal agency housed within the Department of Homeland Security. For "Presidentially declared" disasters FEMA coordinates federal agency activities and is the lead federal agency. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EWP program manager will coordinate NRCS recovery efforts with the appropriate FEMA official. However FEMA will not coordinate NRCS work unless conflicts arise from other projects. If FEMA transfers this responsibility to GEMA or other authorized agency response efforts, NRCS will be responsive to that agency.

- Deploy Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams to emergency locations with state officials to determine if impacted areas meet threshold to declare national emergency.
- Determine dollar damage and advise the President regarding possible disaster declaration. If the president declares a disaster, FEMA will deploy staff to the disaster area. Depending on the size of the event, it could take less than one day to up to 2-3 weeks before a declaration is made. Catastrophic events are usually automatically declared national disasters.

### *FEMA Financial Assistance Programs:*

Individual Assistance (IA) Program - Provides assistance for people to get back on their feet. Examples are low interest loans, cash grants, housing assistance, crisis counseling, etc.

Public Assistance (PA) Program - Grants are made to assist state and local government agencies and certain private nonprofit organizations. Under the Public Assistance Program, FEMA can generally only pay to replace damaged infrastructure to pre-disaster conditions, with upgrades to current codes and standards.

Hazard Moving Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Assists with mitigation activities that reduce or eliminate losses from natural disasters. Mitigation may involve removing homes from the floodplains, minor flood control, retrofitting structures or other facilities, building safe rooms or installing warning sirens, engineering bridges and utility lines to withstand earthquakes.

This program is available to local and state agencies, certain private nonprofit organizations and tribes. Under the Mitigation Program, FEMA has the ability to fund projects which can demonstrate that they are cost effective, and will prevent loss of private or public property in future events.

Other Programs - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

### *Regulatory Division*

The Regulatory Division within the Corps administers Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Federal law (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act) prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States which includes streams and wetlands, without a Department of Army permit issued by the Corps of Engineers. Under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, no work may commence in traditional navigable waters of the U.S. without a permit from the Corps.

The Corps Nationwide 37 permit specifically addresses the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program activities when dealing with "Exigency" and "Non Exigency" conditions. The local sponsor and NRCS will notify the District Engineer or Chief of Regulatory verbally and in writing providing information as required.

In a situation which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard procedures, the Corps does have an emergency permit process. This process is described in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 325.2(e)(4).

When EWP recovery efforts require working in "waters of the U.S." the NRCS Environmental Specialist will coordinate all recovery work and mitigation, if required, with the USACE. The project sponsor will obtain all necessary permits prior to commencement of "Exigency" and "Non Exigency" EWP actions.

## U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

The USFS is eligible to receive EWP assistance and funding to remove watershed impairments that occur on land that is owned by the federal government and managed by the USFS. The USFS will sponsor all recovery work that meets eligibility requirements and is supported by a Damage Survey Report. The NRCS EWP program manager will coordinate site evaluations, review/approve DSRs, and request funding for approved sites. The funding will be executed at the National Office Level.

NRCS can fund emergency measures on Forest Service lands when there is a threat to life and/or property as a result of floods or other natural disasters (excluding fires).

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

*The USFWS administers Section 7 and 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). Through emergency consultation with NRCS, they provide information on the location of various endangered species and ways to reduce the impact when working within or adjacent to their habitat. The NRCS Environmental Specialist will coordinate all work with the USFWS to comply with the Endangered Species Act and other pertinent laws and Executive Orders.*

## Farm Services Agency (FSA)

FSA administers USDA crop commodity programs, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and other farm programs. NRCS coordination will insure that the EWP program recovery efforts, particularly on upland sites and in cropland areas, do not compete with or diminish the ECP program or any other programs administered by FSA. The NRCS EWP program manager will coordinate NRCS recovery efforts with FSA.

### State Agencies

## Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) /Homeland Security

A part of the Office of the Governor, The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) operates under the authority of the Emergency Management Act of 1981. GEMA employees are on 24-hour call to assist local authorities in responding to emergencies. In addition, they staff the State Operations Center (SOC) when a disaster or emergency threatens, as well as prior to and during large scale events. When the SOC is activated, it is staffed not only by GEMA, but also by representatives of more than a dozen other organizations with responsibility for disaster response efforts including state and federal agencies, volunteer, and private sector organizations. The day-to-day responsibilities of emergency management are carried out by the agency's five functional divisions: Finance, Hazard Mitigation, Operations, Public Affairs and Public Assistance.

- *Assist /coordinate with NRCS in identifying local Sponsors or points of contact for potential EWP projects.*
- *Will provide area coordination assistance - during disaster and planning*
- *Coordinate disaster relief assistance*
- *Notify NRCS of present state of Emergency for disasters*
- *Determine availability of state funds for EWP cost sharing*

## Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA. DNR)

- *Review EWP activities to assure that no adverse impacts occur against wildlife, cultural, and historical resources within the state.*
- *Provide technical assistance and serve on DSR Team*
- *Provide information on Historical and Cultural Sites*
- *Issue Buffer Variances as needed*
- *Serve as a recovery team member*

## Georgia Department of Transportation (GA.DOT)

The GA.DOT is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the roads, bridges and tunnels in the State. Many times after a major disaster the GA.DOT is a response agency protecting bridges and re-establishing roads and access. GA.DOT owns and maintains road rights-of-ways and generally limits works within those rights-of-ways.

The Federal Highway Administration administers the Emergency Relief Program, which provides federal aid for repairing damage to public highways. The Emergency Relief Program help States and local highway agencies pay the unusually heavy expenses of repairing serious damage to the Federal-aid system resulting from natural disaster or catastrophic failure. The NRCS EWP program may not be used on roads that are eligible to receive this funding.

## Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's)

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's) were established in the 1930s to develop comprehensive programs and plans for the conservation of soil resources, control and prevention of soil erosion, flood prevention and conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water. Since then, state government has provided financial, technical, administrative, and programmatic assistance. Since the mid-1980s, the state has relied heavily on districts to help deliver many programs aimed at controlling and preventing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution.

## IV GEORGIA NRCS EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROCESS

### Watershed Impairment Occurrence

*When a sudden watershed impairment occurs, the local contact becomes the facilitator for EWP program activities and working with sponsors, landowners and government entities. The local contact will immediately notify the Area Coordinator and/or EWP Program Manager and begin the process of identifying the magnitude and location of the damages. Contacting the local emergency management agency and other local agencies may be necessary at this time.*

### Interagency Coordination

*In a federally declared event NRCS will work closely with FEMA to identify potential sites. FEMA will establish a Joint Agency Response Field Office to coordinate FEMA and GEMA activities. Applicant briefings and kickoff meetings will be scheduled. NRCS is encouraged to participate in these meeting to help strategize assistance among the agencies. FEMA will schedule sites visits to the impacted areas and NRCS is encouraged to participate in these. This will help identify impacted sites, agency responsibilities, and a coordinated effort in completing DSR's.*

### Preliminary Assessment

*Once the NRCS Team contact has identified the preliminary damage locations, a site visit will be conducted. In a federally declared event, NRCS is encouraged to conduct the site visits in coordination with FEMA, if applicable. The local contact will evaluate the extent of the damaged areas and make a preliminary determination on the potential for EWP work. The NRCS EWP Area coordinator and EWP Program Manager should be contacted for guidance on questionable sites. The local NRCS contact may start developing an information file for the potential projects.*

### Identify Sponsorship Interest

*Sponsors should be contacted by the local contact prior to disaster assessment and recovery events to determine local interest. FEMA and GEMA Applicant Briefings and Kick off Meetings can be used to access sponsor Interest. Remember interest in sponsoring projects can change over time because of fluctuating financial capabilities, permit requirements or obtaining easements.*

### Request for Financial and Technical Assistance

*The sponsor submits a request for NRCS technical and financial assistance if potential eligible sites are found in the preliminary assessment. The request is submitted to the NRCS State Conservationist and must contain the sponsors' commitment of 25% of the cost, and the name of the sponsors' technical and administrative representative. A sample request letter is contained in Appendix A.*

### Eligibility Assessment

*The EWP NRCS Area Coordinator will notify the Program Manager and with the concurrence of the Assistant State Conservationist, will identify potential personnel to serve on the interdisciplinary DSR team(s).*

*The interdisciplinary team(s) visits each potential EWP site, complete a Damage Survey Report (DSR), determine project eligibility, defensibility, develop a cost estimate and recommend an environmentally, socially and economically suitable solution for eliminating the imminent threat.*

*At the completion of the DSR, sufficient information is now available to decide: (1) what measures are needed to remove the imminent threat and associated cost to perform the work and (2) willingness of the sponsor to make the necessary commitment to proceed with the project. The project agreement phase may also begin during this step.*

*If warranted, a temporary EWP office may be established and staff detailed to facilitate efficiency of implementation.*

### Project Design

*After determining site eligibility, the DSR team identifies alternatives to remove the threat. Standard design drawings will be completed by the DSR team as needed. All design work will be completed by a private (sponsor) engineer.*

### Permitting

*NRCS will involve all permitting agencies in the review of the projects for input on environmental, cultural and other effects of proposed work being considered for removing the watershed impairment.*

*The EWP sponsor is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits to complete the project. NRCS will be involved in the permitting process for all EWP projects*

*NRCS will not knowingly start any EWP measure prior to all required permits being obtained by the project sponsor.*

*State and counties may also require additional permits such as grading, burning, and etc.*

### Project Agreement

*The project agreement can be initiated after eligibility is determined and funding obtained but cannot be finalized until the sponsor commits to obtain the permits and land rights.*

*The NRCS Grants and Agreement Specialist will initiate the Project Agreement. The Project Agreement specifies the scope of work to be performed, project costs, in-kind contributions and terms for accepting the completed project.*

*If GEMA is providing a match to the Sponsor a separate agreement with GEMA will be developed.*

### Contracting Process

*Once the Project Agreement between NRCS and the sponsor is finalized, the sponsor will:*

*Have an engineer develop design(s) for each DSR*

*Hire contractors to conduct the work, or if equipment is available, do the work themselves to engineering specifications.*

### Construction Inspection

*The project sponsor will be responsible for inspection services during the project installation. Construction quality assurance will be provided in accordance with the Quality Assurance Plan developed by the sponsor's engineer during the design phase of the project.*

### Project Completion and Acceptance

*Upon completion of project, the project sponsor, the sponsor's engineer and an appointed NRCS representative will inspect the work to ensure that all work was completed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications. The sponsor engineer will certify project completion and the NRCS representative will concur.*

*In the event there are deficiencies identified by NRCS, the deficiencies will be corrected before practice completion is certified*

## Project Evaluation and follow-up

Following project completion the EWP Program Manager, EWP Area coordinator and involved staff will evaluate the response to the emergency and processes used to implement the program. Input from all partners including sponsors, agencies, groups and congressional delegations will be solicited. Evaluation of the current program and suggested changes to improve the program effectiveness, delivery, administration and environmental effects will be reviewed. Necessary changes may be incorporated to improve the process to address future disasters. A Final Report will be prepared and mailed to the national program coordinator.

## Communication Plan

A communication plan will be developed and implemented throughout the EWP recovery effort. The purpose of the plan is to inform the targeted audiences of the extent of damages, recovery, and provide general information concerning the EWP recovery program. Congressional updates will be prepared as needed.

## PROCEDURES AND TIME LIMITS

### NRCS

#### Day 1

- Event occurs
- NRCS Field Office will conduct windshield surveys to determine eligibility when sites are accessible and emergency crews have left (except for exigency situations)
- Contact Supervisor/Area/State EWP Coordinator immediately after initial survey (with preliminary estimates if possible)
- State Office will complete the Emergency Disaster Report (EDR) and send to NHQ.
- NHQ will set up a drawing account based on EDR estimates
- Notify GEMA (with \$\$ estimate)  
Send projected EWP cost to GEMA for funding levels by county within 10 days of the event for Exigencies only.

### Sponsors have 60 days from event to request assistance

#### Day 60

- NRCS will provide: 1) A description of the emergency, 2) justification for expedited consultation, and 3) evaluation of the response to and the impacts of the emergency on affected species and their habitats.
- Sponsor will request USACE NWP-37
- Sponsor will contact GA. DNR for site information
- Sponsor will contact all other agencies as appropriate
- State and Area EWP Coordinators will conduct organizational/planning meeting
- State EWP coordinator initiates DSR team meeting (with other agencies)
- NRCS will deploy DSR Evaluation Teams
- Complete DSR's
- Get all local signatures before sending to State Office. Post DSR and pictures to NRCS shared drive
- Notify sponsor to obtain permits and land rights.
- Next day mail DSR to State Office for defensibility determination
- Send DSR to State Conservationist for signature
- Send first 2 pages of each DSR to NHQ
- Send DSR back to Field Office for filing
- Once funding is secured from NHQ inform Sponsor and GEMA

## 220 days to complete work after funds are available to the state

- Sponsor commits to obtain Land Rights and Permits
- Coordinate on proposed work with other agencies
- Sponsors Sign Project Agreement
- Sponsor develop Contract Package (Standards and Specifications approved, finalize design /drawings, inspection report, performance time)
- Begin EWP Work
- Progress Reports
- Final Check
- Sign off by sponsor and concurrence by NRCS

## Exceptions

### In larger events, extensions of the 220 day limit will be needed (ID how and when will they apply)

- FEMA - Applicant (sponsor: community, county, tribe, or state) has 30 days after a presidential declaration to submit a notice of interest (NOI) in receiving federal assistance. The applicant has 60 days to identify damage after the first substantial meeting, also known as the kickoff meeting, with FEMA. The state usually sets a deadline for the applicant to complete Project Worksheets. Then the applicant has 6 months to complete "Emergency" work and debris removal or 18 months for permanent work. FEMA and NRCS will coordinate so items that FEMA cannot fund may be funded through EWP.

- USACE - Issue NWP 37 (usually within 7-14 days)

Issue Emergency Permit in cases where there would be an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process the application under standard

- USFWS - After being contacted by Sponsor for formal consultation, USFWS issues an emergency biological opinion (usually within 30 days)

Through emergency consultation, USFWS provides conservation recommendations to help protect listed species and their habitats as needed.

Provides information and recommendations so that endangered species conservation measures can be included in the response planning process (such as development of specific regional standards and specifications).

- GA. DNR - Provide environmental information and conservation recommendations for emergency sites.

EWP Action Sheet  
for  
NRCS Field Personnel

Remain calm, and remember that this may be a long recovery process over several months. The victims of the disaster may be angry or in shock. They want to be heard, so become a good listener, but do not make promises that you or NRCS cannot keep. This program is not a response, but an effort of recovery to be done safely after floodwaters and/or winds have subsided. Only then can the full extent of the damage and blockages be determined.

- 1) Determine as soon as possible where damages and stream blockages have occurred. This can be done quickly by telephone calls to key landowners, visual inspections, Weather Bureau Reports, Internet weather maps, and conversations with other county and agency personnel.
- 2) Notify the NRCS State Office, your supervisors, and the local Sponsors of the disaster situation. Be prepared to report the approximate number of sites, people, dwellings, highways, names of streams, and structures affected. This information will change several times as more sites are found. Please continually communicate this information to all concerned. Limited funding may be available for Exigency situations. Please contact the State Office for more information.
- 3) Make a report of these findings to the County Administrator and / or Emergency Management Agency. In an independent city, the City Manager is usually the primary contact. The sponsor will appoint a technical and administrative contact. Make the potential sponsor aware of: A) the purpose of EWP and its financial obligations, B) Their responsibility to obtain the land right permission signatures for each landowner affected as well as the necessary environmental permits. Furnish the County Administrator with a copy of the EWP letter of request for assistance from NRCS (see appendix A). If the county is interested in this recovery program, proceed to item 4.
- 4) Notify the State Office of the Sponsor's wish to proceed with EWP. Prepare for the Damage Survey Teams to report to your office. The DSR team will independently make the final site eligibility decision and the extent of work to be performed. (Be aware that usually the local contact only helps the DSR teams).
- 5) Maintain a telephone log sheet with headings of name, addresses, telephone #, and problem, stream name, date and time, to be kept near a telephone.
- 6) Coordinate local fact finding and recovery efforts with the County/City, EMA's, GEMA and others as necessary.
- 7) Begin the implementation of the communication plan.

*Below is a list of equipment & information that may be needed by the DSR Team (also see Appendix C)*

Tech Guide Section I, Threatened & Endangered Species Maps, Cultural Resources Data (if available) other resource data – wetland maps, soils information, stream classifications.

File folders for each DSR site, digital cameras, highway or street maps with streams, names & route numbers, GPS devices, topographic maps or terrain navigator software, compass, clip boards with pads of paper, hand levels, survey rods, measuring tapes and/or wheels, clinometer, copier, fax machines, two way radios, survey ribbon, marking paint, surveying stakes, marking crayons or markers.

Other things to prepare may include: A list of local contractors with equipment list and rate, copies of the Landrights Permission Sheet, directory of essential personnel and agencies and a location map with possible disposal areas identified.

## V PROGRAM COORDINATION

### LOCAL COORDINATION

Multi-level coordination is necessary for the EWP recovery to be completed within the time frame required by the program guidelines. The NRCS EWP program manager, District Conservationist and DSR team Leader will all work closely with the sponsor to plan, prioritize, fund and complete EWP recovery measures. The local Soil and Water Conservation District will also be highly involved in many aspects of the recovery effort at the local level.

### ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents that all projects that receive Federal funding must comply with NEPA and associated Federal, State, Tribal, and local statutes. NO WORK can be done on MOST proposed projects before the NEPA review is complete. If work is done before the NEPA review is completed, it may NOT be eligible for Federal funding.

All applications must have adequate NEPA documents that enable the FEMA Regional Environmental Officer to determine that the proposed project complies with NEPA and associated statutes. The FEMA Mitigation Division Environmental Specialists provide comprehensive NEPA technical assistance for States and Applicants, with their consent, to complete NEPA reviews sooner. The type and quantity of NEPA documents required to make this determination varies depending upon the project.

#### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

The process as listed in Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide will be followed to review the existence of state and federally listed threatened and endangered species as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. USFWS and GA. DNR will be contacted and a Threatened and Endangered Species review will be conducted for each site and documented on the EE portion (p.4) of the DSR. T&E Species consultations, if necessary, will take place prior to any work being performed at the EWP site.

#### *Trout Waters*

When EWP sites are located in trout waters, DNR will be notified. Fisheries biologist will have the opportunity to be part of the DSR team. Timing of work will be considered to avoid spawning and enhance habitats. Bioengineering techniques to stabilize banks will be considered as an alternative at each site. Low flow channels and a channel design based on fluvial geomorphology principles will be installed at each site where the DSR calls for channel modification.

#### *Water Quality*

All EWP alternatives will be evaluated for impacts to water quality. Accepted measures will meet criteria as stated in Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Soil erosion and sediment control will be evaluated for each alternative. Consultation, if needed, will be conducted with the GA. DNR EPD and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

#### *Seeding and Vegetation Specifications*

All disturbed areas as a result of NRCS EWP measures will be seeded as part of the contract. Seeding recommendations and specifications will follow Field Office Technical Guide criteria. The recommended seeding mixture will depend on the time of year, soils, erodibility, land use, accessibility, position on the landscape, and other factors. NRCS will also consider bioengineering alternatives on each site.

## Wetlands

The EWP DSR team will identify and delineate any wetlands that will be altered, drained or filled as a result of the selected alternative for EWP work. Wetlands in or near the EWP site will be shown on the DSR. During the alternative analysis and selection of the proposed action the DSR Team will consider mitigation sequencing through the use of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of wetland impacts. Unavoidable wetland losses will be mitigated according to NRCS policy and in consultation and agreement with USACE.

## Cultural Resources

At least one member of each DSR team will have completed the NRCS awareness training for historic resources. Field reconnaissance will be conducted on each site and recorded on the Environmental Evaluation form (p.4 of DSR). The State Historical Preservation Officer will make available the cultural resource records available to NRCS. NRCS will check the database, when available, for each site. Until then, SHPO will be notified of each site as the DSR's are completed. If the EWP measure is considered an undertaking a cultural resources form will be filled out and sent to the NRCS cultural resources coordinator. NRCS will adhere to the State Level Agreement between the NRCS and Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. Section 8 of this agreement set forth a procedure to expedite cultural resources review in emergency situations. NRCS will follow national policy and the provisions of the State Level Agreement to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Other Acts that will be consulted if needed include: Coastal Zone management Act, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Coastal Barrier Improvement Act, and the Farmland Protection Act.

## Bioengineering and fluvial geomorphology

Bioengineering will be promoted and used where appropriate. Bioengineering will not take the place of hard armor on stream banks where heavy structural measures are necessary to provide adequate protection. Use of bioengineering will include: root wads, rock vortex weirs, toe armor with vegetative side slopes, stream barbs and other techniques listed in chapter 18 of the Engineering Field Handbook.

Principles of fluvial geomorphology will be applied in EWP planning, design and construction. Stream meanders will be maintained when possible. Low flow channels will be established and sized to match existing stable cross-sections upstream and downstream.

## INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- NRCS, USFWS and DNR will develop Standards, Specifications and Procedures that will be adapted for each project. These agencies will identify where limitations will prohibit the standard and specifications from being accepted (i.e. trout watersheds, endangered species, etc.)
- Sponsor will contact USFWS (usually within 48 hours) for emergency consultation for the purpose of complying with Sections 7 and 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- GEMA and FEMA will provide to NRCS a listing of Georgia counties that have been declared a State or Federal emergency. Also, the HMGP Applicant briefing schedule, Kickoff meetings and Site Visits will be posted.
- Sponsor will secure USACE Nationwide 37 Permit for as many EWP activities/practices as possible.
- DNR & USFWS will be involved in the initial stages of the damage assessment process.

- Current Program Rule, Manual (Policy), Handbook and DSR will be available for all participating agencies. (Available in hard copy and on the Internet)
- Appropriate meetings will be scheduled as needed for the purpose of establishing new standards, modifying old standards etc.
- Refer to FEMA's PW (Project Worksheet) requirements.
- Identify applications by event to all agencies in order to expedite the EWP process.

### BEFORE AND AFTER EWP PICTURE FILE

EWP Area Coordinator will organize and maintain EWP Picture File.

Picture File will contain before and after pictures of EWP sites

A site number will be written on a sheet of paper and should be included in all pictures of the site so the site can be easily identified.

## DECLARED DISASTERS

<i>Lead Agency</i>	<i>Resources and Funding</i>	<i>Communication</i>	<i>Response Teams</i>
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### NAT'L/FEDERAL

FEMA	FEMA 75% NRCS 75% for eligible measures not covered by FEMA GEMA up to 25% or Local Sponsors 25% (\$\$, in kind, etc.)	FEMA will notify other agencies GEMA will notify NRCS Check with FEMA on the work they will be doing Obtain local knowledge from EMA's Notify other agencies in DSR phase Provide alternative forms of communication	Contact: FEMA GEMA DNR / WRD USF&W USACE NRCS State Office
------	---	---	---

### STATE

GEMA	NRCS 75% for eligible measures GEMA up to 10% (on A case by case basis) Local Sponsors 25% (\$\$, in Kind, etc.)	GEMA will notify NRCS NRCS will send Area EWP Coord. to GEMA's Operational Center Obtain local knowledge from EMA's Notify other agencies in DSR phase Provide alternative forms of communication	Contact: GEMA DNR / WRD USF&W USACE NRCS State Office
------	---	---	---

### LOCAL

NRCS	NRCS 75% for eligible measures Local Sponsors 25% (\$\$, in kind, etc.)	Obtain local knowledge from EMA's Notify other agencies in DSR phase Provide alternative forms of communication Notify GEMA	Contact: DNR / WRD USF&W USACE GEMA
------	---	--	--

## VI DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

The determination of eligibility and damage assessment of each site or closely grouped sites will be documented through the completion of a Damage Survey Report (DSR) (Appendix D). The DSR will be completed on site by an interdisciplinary team. The DSR team will consist of a minimum of one NRCS Engineer, a Biologist (usually DNR), and a Resource Conservationist. Sponsor's representative, other agency personnel, NRCS economist, sociologist, cultural resources specialist, and others may be invited to participate in the site assessment process. A local resource conservationist, district conservationist, or other local person knowledgeable of the area will participate on the team to provide local data and knowledge to the team that is necessary in completion of the DSR.

The DSR for each site will document the alternative analysis, the economic, social, and environmental defensibility and the technical soundness of the selected alternative. The DSR site sketch will show pre-storm and post-storm conditions, the work to be completed, work limits, haul roads, dump sites, and protected areas..

Each DSR will include GPS data. Each site will be located on a county/city road map, a copy of the USGS topographic quadrangle map locating the site and indicating the USGS quad name.

Photographs will be taken at each site. The photographs will become part of the DSR and will supply additional documentation of the conditions found by the DSR team.

For ineligibility, completion of only pages 1 and 6 of the DSR will be used to document sites that were evaluated but deemed ineligible. In these cases, on page 6 in the remarks section the DSR team will document the reason for ineligibility i.e. "no stream flow impairment" or "does not meet overall economic, social and environmental defensibility".

### Exigency Sites

A DSR will be completed for all Exigency sites prior to starting work. However, the initial DSR may cover just the work necessary to relieve the urgent and compelling situation. This work must be completed within 10 days of accessibility of the site. A second DSR may be necessary to alleviate any remaining hazard causing an emergency situation.

Each DSR team will have an updated list for equipment rental rates and a list of contractors who will respond quickly to the site when called. The team engineer will determine a cost estimate for work to relieve the U&C situation. The team leader will coordinate with the state EWP program manager to ensure adequate funds are available prior to contacting the contractor to perform the U&C work. The sponsor must obtain land rights and permits and agree to pay their 25% of the construction cost prior to any work being performed. The contracting officer will prepare the necessary agreement and make the necessary procurement.

### USDA/Forest Service Property

The EWP program manager will appoint a minimum of two NRCS employees to assist the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in damage assessment and DSR completion. The employees will usually be the Area EWP Coordinator and technical representative. The USFS will provide the remaining members of the interdisciplinary team to evaluate and determine eligibility of sites on USFS land. The EWP eligibility criterion remains the same and the DSR completion and approval by the EWP program manager is necessary prior to any transfer of money. USFS is solely responsible for all practices, design, implementation, permits and any land rights necessary to complete work on National Forest land.

## VII PERMITS

The sponsor will obtain all necessary environmental permits. Stream work will involve obtaining a 404, nationwide, or regional permit from the USACE. NRCS will assist the sponsor in obtaining these permits if needed. Local and/or state permits may apply in some locations such as a burning permit, grading permit, and etc. The sponsor, prior to construction start, must also obtain these permits if required. The sponsor is responsible for any fees associated with the issuance of these permits but may include the cost as part of their 25% match.

Burning permits are usually obtained by the contractor if the sponsor does not do the burning.

### Permits by type of work/impacts:

Obtaining permits are the responsibility of the Sponsor.

If other than individual permit, NRCS will notify USACE for Permitting:

- Section 404 Permit as required by the Clean Water Act
- Section 401 Certification
- Nationwide 37 Permit will be used for minimal impacted areas. NRCS is the lead agency in coordinating with the USACE and must inform all the other agencies.
- Section 10 of the National Rivers and Harbors Act.

### Nationwide 37

- NRCS will define problem and give examples of EWP Actions
- The Sponsor must comply with all conditions and requirements of the Act.
- Get partners together to establish guidelines for NWP-37 if needed
- Coordinate with: USFWS, GA. DNR/WRP , NMFS, EPA, USACE, SHPO

### Other

Contact EPD for Buffer variance if needed along stream banks. (Variance needs to be obtained at the county and state level).

Identify local ordinances as needed

## VIII TYPICAL MEASURES

NRCS in Georgia uses several typical practices to stabilize watersheds after disasters. These measures focus on eliminating those watershed impairments that present an imminent threat to life and property. The typical measures detailed here have been utilized in past Georgia EWP recovery and implementation work.

## Stream Bank Stabilization

*This practice is used to stabilize or protect banks of streams or excavated channels for one or more of the following purposes: 1) To prevent the loss of land or damage to utilities, homes, buildings, roads or other facilities adjacent to the banks, 2) to maintain the capacity of a channel, and 3) to reduce sediment loads causing downstream damages and pollution. Normally the banks are sloped back and stabilized with soil bioengineering techniques, gabions and/or rock rip-rap depending on the site characteristics, stream velocities, stream configuration, etc. The top of the bank is seeded with grass. The species depends on the planting date and site specific conditions.*

### BEFORE



### AFTER



## Gabions

Wire fabric containers of variable size, interconnected and filled with stone at the site of use, to form flexible, permeable, monolithic structures such as retaining walls, sea walls, channel linings, revetments, weirs, etc for erosion and flood control. Gabions are typically used where space is limited.

### BEFORE



### AFTER



## Riprap

Riprap is quarry stone with sharp angles that lock into position with other pieces of stone creating a stable stream bank covering. Riprap is used on eroding banks where space is available and proven structural protection is needed. This is usually near a structure or where a curve in the stream should not be allowed to migrate. Riprap is also used as toe armor for soil bioengineering stream bank stabilization projects.

### BEFORE



### AFTER



## Debris Removal

*Removal of an accumulation of woody or other debris that is diverting water flow or plugging a channel causing flooding or a safety hazard. Also included in debris removal is the removal of sediment, cobble or gravel deposition that has filled in a stream channel or hydrologic flood plain. With a reduced channel capacity, the flow of water spreads out over the floodplain flooding adjacent homes and buildings. Debris removal also includes removing woody debris and other debris in upland areas away from the channel that pose a threat to human health, lives or property.*

BEFORE



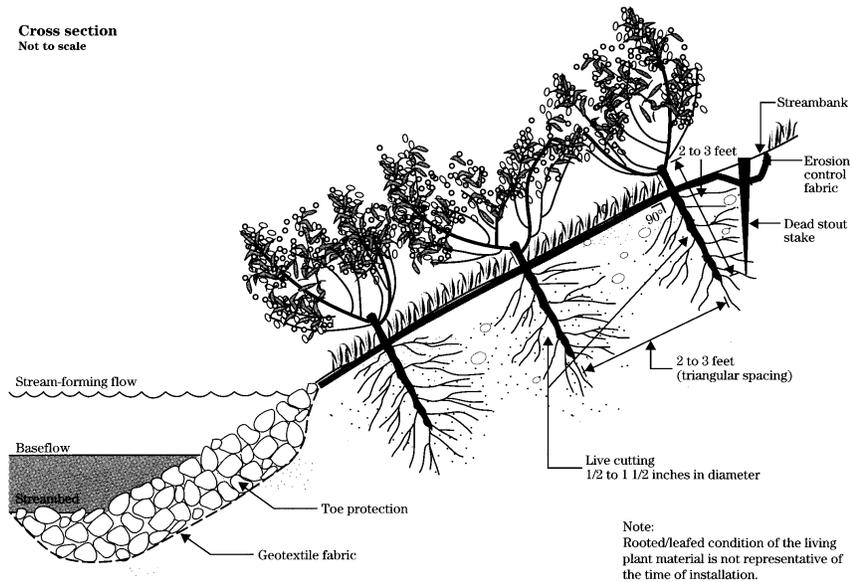
AFTER



**Bioengineering**

Bioengineering is a method of construction using living plants in combination with dead woody vegetative matter or inorganic materials. The practice brings together biological, ecological, and engineering concepts to produce living functioning systems to prevent erosion, to control sedimentation, or to provide habitat in difficult settings.

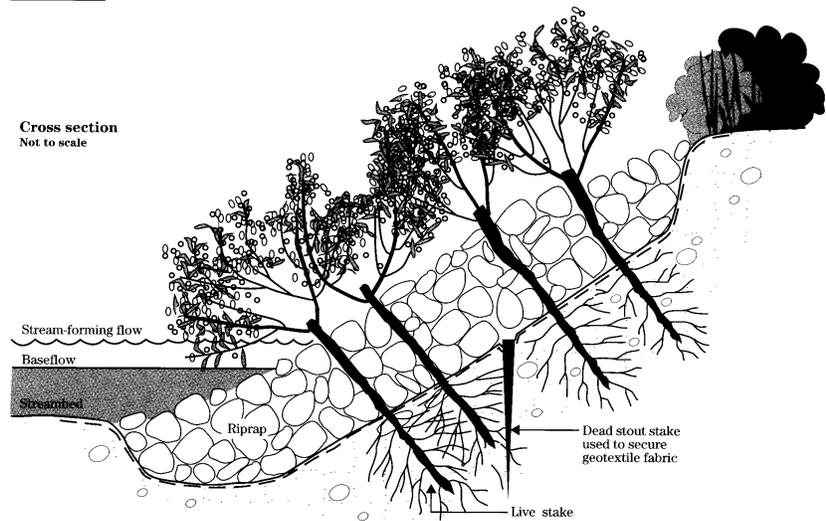
**Figure 16-4** Live stake details



(210-vi-EFH, December 1996)

16-13

**Figure 16-16** Joint planting details



16-28

(210-vi-EFH, December 1996)

BEFORE



AFTER



## IX CONTRACTING PROCEDURES

The NRCS has two methods of contracting for implementing EWP projects. They are, locally led contract and force account.

The locally led contract is when the sponsor does all the contracting work (as with the CLO method, sponsors must adhere to the same regulations). In-kind credit may be given to sponsors when they do "service" type activities. Agreement is reached on type of workers needed to complete the work, their salaries and length of time to complete the projects (similar to the plan of operations for force account work).

With the force account the sponsors complete the project with their own equipment and forces. This requires an approved plan of operations and the total cost needs to be less than \$150,000. The sponsor keeps detailed records of their work activities. NRCS pays 75% of the cost. The sponsor can also receive credit and/or payment for approved in-kind contributions for "service" activities.

Georgia will use locally led and force account for Contracting EWP work.. Refer to the 2013 Georgia Sponsor Guide for more detailed EWP Contracting Procedures.

### In-Kind Contributions

All methods of contracting may offer certain opportunities for in-kind contribution. EWP measures are broken into two activities.

Installation Costs - (Includes: The Federal share is 75% of the total cost and 25% for the Sponsor).

mobilization/demobilization	earthwork
materials	vegetation

### Service Costs

Surveys	inspection
Design	contracting/contract administration

The sponsors, depending on contracting method may elect to carry out "installation" and/or "services" work that can be used toward their share of the project cost. Depending on the circumstances, if their share exceeds the required cost share they may be paid for the excess. In general, in-kind contributions can include labor and equipment for any work not contracted for (must be associated with the project). Usually something NRCS would be required to do or contract for specifically for the project at hand. In-kind labor is covered in 7 CFR 3016 and 3015. Legal information associated with land rights, legal opinions and administrative fees for administration of locally led contracting activities does not qualify as in-kind contributions.

### Contract Administration and Management

*Project work begins once the contract has been awarded. The sponsor will provide inspection services. The inspection process ensures the project is being conducted consistent with the project design, contract specifications and permit requirements. NRCS personnel will periodically check installation progress, as needed.*

*Upon completion of project, the project sponsor, the sponsor's engineer and NRCS representative review the work to ensure all the necessary items are completed according to the requirements specified in the project agreement. If the project work is deemed complete the project is accepted and as-built drawings completed.  
When the project is accepted and properly invoiced, budget officer will issue a payment to the Sponsor.*

## X EMERGENCY RECOVERY COMMUNICATION PLAN

### Goals

When a natural disaster occurs impairing a watershed with imminent threat to life and/or property landowners and potential sponsors come to NRCS for assistance through EWP. The public is made aware of the EWP program and is informed of the role NRCS plays in administering the program.

### Objectives

Through various media the public becomes aware of the natural disaster and the NRCS involvement in disaster recovery. Congressional delegation and State legislators are aware of the EWP assistance provided by NRCS after natural disasters.

### Target Audiences

Congressional delegation  
State Legislators  
General Public  
Media (Newspaper, Television and Radio)

### Key Messages

- What the disaster is, where it is, damage caused and resources affected.
- Which local entities are sponsoring the EWP process.
- How NRCS and other agencies are involved in assisting with the recovery effort.
- Benefits from installed emergency measures.

See Sample Press Release in Appendix D

## PRE AND POST EVENT MEETINGS

### GEMA Workshops

Attend Emergency Management Conference

NRCS may present EWP Information at GEMA's Hazard mitigation Applicant Briefings, Disaster Recovery Programs Information and Documentation workshops

### FEMA Meetings

Joint Field Office Coordination will be established  
Applicant briefings will be posted  
Kickoff Meetings will be posted  
Site visits will be scheduled

### Implementation Meeting

Coordinated by Area or State EWP Coordinator

Include all interagency partners

### Post Event Meeting

Coordinated by Area or State EWP Coordinator

Include all interagency partners

### Site and Area Specific Meetings

Coordinated by Area or State EWP Coordinator

### Local Sponsor Meetings

Coordinated by Area or State EWP Coordinator or District Conservationist

### NRCS EWP Team and DSR Team Meetings

Coordinated by NRCS State EWP Coordinator

### Annual Emergency Recovery Plan Interagency Meetings

Coordinated by State EWP Coordinator

## XI TRAINING AND EDUCATION

### NATIONAL NRCS WORKSHOPS AND POWER POINTS

Administered by NRCS -- Use National EWP Assistance Teams if needed

State NRCS EWP team and partners will provide statewide training as needed

### GEORGIA EWP TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

#### *EWP Awareness Training*

- State EWP or Leadership Team will conduct training for other NRCS personnel, partners and sponsors.

## XII FINAL REPORTS AND FOLLOWUP

Within 60 days of the completion of the emergency work, the EWP program manager will submit a final report to NHQ. This report will follow the guidelines as stated in the National Emergency Watershed Protection Manual part 503. This report may be distributed to other NRCS offices, State Technical Committee, congressional offices and interested partners. The project sponsors and appropriate agencies will be given the chance to comment on the effectiveness and delivery of the program. If needed, NRCS will conduct a follow up tour for sponsors, environmental and permitting agencies and other interested parties. NRCS will accept comments and entertain any suggestions that will improve the delivery and effectiveness of the EWP program and expand the use of floodplain easements.

## APPENDIX A

### SAMPLE LETTER REQUESTING EWP ASSISTANCE

State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service (Street)  
(City, State, Zip code)

Dear . .

We request Federal assistance under provisions of Section 216, Public Law 516, to restore damages sustained or caused by storms of.

(Describe location of disaster occurrence and scope of damage)

This work is needed to safeguard lives and property from an imminent hazard of floodwater and erosion.

We understand, as sponsors of an emergency watershed protection project, our responsibilities should include acquiring landrights and permits needed to construct, and if required, to operate and maintain the proposed measures. We are prepared to furnish the 25 percent local cost-share of the construction work in dollars or in-kind services.

The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the contact persons in our organization are as follows:

Please contact for any additional information needed.

Sincerely,

Title (President, Chair, etc.)

EXHIBIT 1

## SAMPLE LETTER REQUESTING EWP ASSISTANCE

APPLICATION FOR EWP ASSISTANCE USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Applicant Organization: Date: Street/P.O. Box:

City: State: Zip Code:

Event Name: Date of Event: Description of Damage:

Application made to other federal agencies for similar assistance? Yes No (If yes please explain type of request, agency name, and application status.)

Contact Person (s): Name: Name:

Address: Address: City: City:

State: Zip Code State: Zip Code:

Telephone Number: Telephone:

By signing this application form, we, the sponsoring local organization for this EWP work, understand our responsibilities include: acquiring land rights and permits needed to construct, and if required, operate and maintain the proposed measures. We are prepared to furnish the 25 percent local cost-share of the construction work in funds or in-kind services.

This application for assistance was approved at the meeting on.

Authorized Signature Date: Title

EXHIBIT 2

## APPENDIX B

### Blank EDR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				NRCS-PDM-21					
Natural Resources Conservation Service				10/2004					
<h2>Electronic Disaster Report</h2> <h3>Emergency Watershed Protection Program</h3>									
State: GA		Initial Report: <input type="checkbox"/>		Follow-up Report: <input type="checkbox"/>		Date of this Report:			
Contact Information:				Disaster Information:					
Name:				Disaster Name:					
Address:		355 E. Hancock Ave. Athens Ga. 30601		Community Affected:					
Telephone:		706-546-2277		Disaster Date:					
Disaster Analysis									
County Affected:		Severity			County Affected:		Severity		
		Severe	Moderate	Light			Severe	Moderate	Light
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional Information									

Damage Assessment:

EWP Actions to Date:

Urgent Problems and/or Needs (Additional Comments):

Limited Resource Communities Affected:

Human Interest Examples:

Projects (such as PL-566, RC&D) that have helped limit the damage

APPENDIX C



NRCS-PDM-20

Natural Resources Conservation Service
DAMAGE SURVEY REPORT (DSR)
Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Recovery

Section 1A

Date of report
DSR number
Project number

NRCS Entry Only
Eligible: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
Approved: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
Funding priority number (from sect. 4)
Limited Resource Area: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
1 Major disaster declaration
2 Emergency declaration
3 Fire management assistance declaration
4 Local declaration

Section 1B - Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Telephone Number

Section 1C - Site Location Information

County: State Congressional District
Latitude Longitude UTM Coordinates
Drainage name Site name
Reach
Damage description

**Section 1D - Site Evaluation**

All answers in this section must be YES to be eligible for EWP assistance.

Site Eligibility	YES	NO	Remarks
Damage was a result of a natural disaster? <sup>1</sup>			
Recovery measures would be for runoff retardation or soil erosion prevention? <sup>1</sup>	___	___	
Threat to life and/or property? <sup>1</sup>			
Event caused a sudden impairment in the watershed? <sup>1</sup>	___	___	
Imminent threat was created by this event? <sup>2</sup>			
For structural repairs, not repaired twice within 10 years? <sup>2</sup>			
<b>Site Defensibility</b>			
Economic, environmental, and social documentation adequate to warrant action? (See completed NRCS-CPA-52 and sections 3 and 4 of DSR. <sup>3</sup> )	___	___	
Proposed action technically viable? (See section 6. <sup>3</sup> )			

<sup>1</sup> Statutory

<sup>2</sup> Regulation

<sup>3</sup> The completed DSR and Form NRCS-CPA-52, "Environmental Evaluation Worksheet," are required to support the \_\_\_\_\_ this summary page. If additional space is needed on this or any other page in this form, add appropriate pages.

Have all the appropriate steps been taken to ensure that all segments of the affected population have been informed of the EWP program and its possible effects? YES  NO

Comments:

**Section 1E - Proposed Action**

Describe the preferred alternative (same as NRCS CPA-52, boxes M and G)

Total installation cost identified in this DSR from section 6: \_\_\_\_\_

NRCS 75% cost-share: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor 25% cost-share: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 1F - NRCS State Office Review and Approval**

Reviewed by:

Date reviewed

---

State EWP Program Manager

Approved by:

Date approved

State Conservationist



**Section 4 - Social Consideration**

**This section must be completed for each alternative considered (attach additional sheets as necessary).**

	YES	NO	Remarks
Has there been a loss of life as a result of the watershed impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there the potential for loss of life due to damages from the watershed impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has access to a hospital or medical facility been impaired by watershed impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has the community as a whole been adversely impacted by the watershed impairment (life and property ceases to operate in a normal capacity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a lack or has there been a reduction of public safety due to watershed impairment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section 5 - Group Representation Information**

**This section is completed only for the preferred alternative selected.**

Group Representation	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native Female Hispanic	
American Indian/Alaska Native Female Non-Hispanic	
American Indian/Alaska Native Male Hispanic	
American Indian/Alaska Native Male Non-Hispanic	
Asian Female Hispanic	
Asian Female Non-Hispanic	
Asian Male Hispanic	
Asian Male Non-Hispanic	
Black or African American Female Hispanic	
Black or African American Female Non-Hispanic	
Black or African American Male Hispanic	
Black or African American Male Non-Hispanic	
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Female Hispanic	
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Female Non-Hispanic	
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Male Hispanic	
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander Male Non-Hispanic	
White Female Hispanic	
White Female Non-Hispanic	
White Male Hispanic	
White Male Non-Hispanic	
Total Group	

Census tract(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Section 7 - NRCS EWP Funding Priority**

Complete the following section to compute the funding priority for the recovery measures in this application (see instructions on page 9).

Priority Ranking Criteria	Yes	No		Ranking Number Plus Modifier
1. Is this an exigency situation?				
2. Is this a site where there is serious, but not immediate threat to human life?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. Is this a site where buildings, utilities, or other important infrastructure components are threatened?				
4. Is this site a funding priority established by the NRCS Chief?				
<b>The following are modifiers for the above criteria</b>			<b>Modifier</b>	
a. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve federally-listed threatened and endangered species or critical habitat?				
b. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve cultural sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places?				
c. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve prime or important farmland?				
d. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve existing wetlands?				
e. Will the proposed action or alternatives maintain or improve current water quality conditions?				
f. Will the proposed action or alternatives protect or conserve unique habitat, including but not limited to, areas inhabited by State-listed species, fish and wildlife management area, or State identified sensitive habitats?				

Enter priority computation in section 1A, "NRCS Entry Only" box, in "Funding priority number."

Remarks:

**DSR NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 8 - Findings**

Enter NEPA compliance finding from section Q of the NRCS-CPA-52.

The DSR was reviewed with the sponsors. Yes  No

NRCS representative of the DSR team: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 9 - Attachments:**

- A. Location map
- B. Site plan or sketches
- C. NRCS-CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet
- D. Other (explain)

**Instructions for Completing the NRCS-PDM-20, DSR**

-	<b>Explanation of Requested Item</b>	<b>Who Completes</b>
<b>Section 1</b>	Enter Site Sponsor, Location, Evaluation, Selected Alternative, and Reviewed and Approval Signatures.	NRCS completes with voluntary assistance from Sponsor except for NRCS-only portion of section 1A.
1A	Enter the Date, DSR Number, and Project Number. For NRCS only enter Eligible Yes/No, Approved Yes/No, Funding Priority Number, and Limited Resource Area Yes/No.	
1B	Enter Sponsor Name, Address, Telephone, Fax	
1C	Enter site location County, State, Congressional District, Latitude, Longitude, Section, Township, Range, UTM Coordinates, Drainage name, Reach within drainage, and Damage description.	
1D	Enter Yes/No and any Remarks for the Site Evaluation information. Any No response means the site is not eligible for EWP assistance and no further information is necessary to complete the DSR. (See NEWPPM 390-502.03 and 390-502-04) Enter Yes/No regarding whether the affected public has been informed of the EWP program.	
1E	Enter the proposed treatment and the cost of installation.	NRCS only.
1F	NRCS Review and Approval.	
<b>Section 2</b>	Attach NRCS-CPA 52 that addresses environmental evaluation and special environmental concerns	NRCS only.
<b>Section 3</b>	<p>Identify Property protected both private and public, business losses and other economic impacts considered for each alternative. Enter the dollar value of the potential future damages if no action is taken in the Future Damage (5) column. This would be the estimate of the value lost if the EWP recovery measure is not installed. Use the repair cost or damage dollar method to determine the estimate of future damages. The repair cost method uses the costs to return the impaired property, good, or services based on their original prevent condition or value. The damage dollar method uses an estimate of the future damage to value (e.g., if the structure is condemned, then enter the value of the structure). Enter the estimated amount based upon existing information or information furnished by the sponsor, contractors, or others with specific knowledge for recovery from natural disasters for each alternative considered. Often market values for properties or services can be obtained from personnel at the local county/parish tax assessment office.</p> <p>The DSR team needs to determine the Damage Factor (%) which is a coefficient that indicates the degree of damage reduction to a property that is attributed to the effect of the proposed EWP recovery measures. Use an appropriate estimate of how much of the damage the EWP recovery measure will avoid for the alternative being considered. If the recovery measures from a single site will prevent 100 percent of the damage use 100 percent. The Near Term Damage Reduction is the Future Damage (\$) times the Damage Factor (%). Sum the Near Term Damage Reduction values to calculate the Total Near Term Damage Reduction. Enter the Net Benefit which is computed by subtracting the Cost from Section 6 from the total near term damage reduction. The</p>	NRCS completes with voluntary assistance from Sponsor.

-	Explanation of Requested Item	Who Completes
	economic section must be completed for each alternative considered. Attach additional sheets as necessary.	
<b>Section 4</b>	<p>Enter information to describe the potential social impacts and considerations for each alternative. Answer Yes or No and any remarks necessary to adequately address each question. The information may be obtained through interviews with community leaders, government officials or sponsors.</p> <p>Factors such as road closures, loss of water, electricity, access to emergency services are used when answering whether the community as a whole has been impaired.</p> <p>This information is part of the environmental evaluation (NRCS-CPA-52) but may be pertinent in section 7 regarding funding priorities. The Social Considerations section must be completed for each alternative considered. Attach additional sheets as necessary.</p>	NRCS completes with voluntary assistance from Sponsor.
<b>Section 5</b>	Enter the Group Representation for the preferred alternative. Use the most recent census tract information based upon where the EWP recovery measures are located.	NRCS completes using most recent U.S. Census data.
<b>Section 6</b>	<p>Enter Proposed Recovery Measure(s) including Quantity, Units, Unit Cost, and Total Amount Cost.</p> <p>Enter sum of all Proposed Recovery Measure Costs to calculate Total Costs. Enter Total Installation Costs in Section 1E. The Engineering Cost Estimate must be completed for each alternative considered. Attach additional sheets as necessary.</p>	NRCS completes with voluntary assistance from Sponsor.
<b>Section 7</b>	This section is used to determine the Funding Priority for the preferred alternative and sequence for initiating recovery measures. Enter Yes/No for questions 1 through 4 and enter the number (exigency 1, serious threat to human life 2, etc.) in the right column, Ranking Number Plus Modifier. Complete the Modifier portion by placing the alphabetic indicator a through f in the Modifier column. Complete the Ranking Number Plus Modifier column by entering the alphabetic indicator(s) that exists within the site. The number of the site designates the priority (e.g., a site with a designation of 2 is a higher priority than a site with a designation of 3). The modifiers increase the priority for the same numeric site (e.g., a site with a designation of 1a, would be a higher priority than a site with a designation of 1, a site with a designation of 2bc would be a higher priority than a site designated as 2b). Enter the Funding Priority in Section 1A.	NRCS completes with voluntary assistance from Sponsor.
<b>Section 8</b>	Insert the number of the Finding that was checked in section Q of the NRCS-CPA-52. If action is required to meet NEPA requirements, state whether an EA or EIS will be prepared or adopted.”	NRCS only.
<b>Section 9</b>	Include attachments for location map, site sketch or plan, a completed NRCS-CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet, and other information as needed.	NRCS completes with voluntary assistance from Sponsor.

## Appendix D

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service	NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013 GA Amended 3/6/2015	<b>A. Client Name:</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET</b>		<b>B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):</b> <b>Program Authority (optional):</b>	
<b>D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):</b>		<b>C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):</b>	
<b>E. Need for Action:</b>	<b>H. Alternatives</b>		
	<b>No Action</b> ✓ if RMS <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alternative 1</b> ✓ if RMS <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Alternative 2</b> ✓ if RMS <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Resource Concerns</b>			
In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).			
<b>F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions</b> (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	<b>I. Effects of Alternatives</b>		
	<b>No Action</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>
Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>
✓ if does NOT meet PC	✓ if does NOT meet PC	✓ if does NOT meet PC	✓ if does NOT meet PC
<b>SOIL: EROSION</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC

## Appendix D

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. (continued)					
	<i>No Action</i>		<i>Alternative 1</i>		<i>Alternative 2</i>	
	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√if does NOT meet PC
<b>AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS</b>						
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION</b>						
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE</b>						
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION</b>						
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE</b>						
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC		<input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC
<b>HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>						

## Appendix D

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.						
<p><b>In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "•" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.</b></p>						
G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√if needs further action
•Clean Air Act <i>Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Coastal Zone Management <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Coral Reefs <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Endangered and Threatened Species <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplain Management <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural Areas <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmlands <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian Area <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic Beauty <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>



## Appendix D

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)		
<p>NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.</p>		
Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)		Action required
The preferred alternative:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is <b>not a federal action</b> where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action <b>ALL</b> of which is <b>categorically excluded</b> from further environmental analysis <b>AND</b> there are <b>no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O"</b> .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been <b>sufficiently analyzed</b> in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document <b>and</b> there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects</u> or extraordinary circumstances.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects <b>and has been formally adopted by NRCS</b> . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. ( <b>Note: This box is not applicable to FSA</b> )	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has <b>NOT</b> been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.
R. Rationale Supporting the Finding		
<b>R.1</b> Findings Documentation		
<b>R.2</b> Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) <b>(more than one may apply)</b>		
7 CFR Part 650 Compliance With NEPA , subpart 650.6 Categorical Exclusions states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.		
<p><i>I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.</i></p>		
S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 30px; width: 100%;"></div>
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Additional notes		

## APPENDIX E

### EXAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

#### **NRCS Readies to Help in Wake of Hurricane QQQQQ**

**Athens, Ga. (September 28, XXXX) --- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is working to help the citizens of ZZZZZ and YYYYY as they recover from the effects of Hurricane QQQQQ.**

**NRCS and conservation partnership agencies are working together to assess storm and flood damaged sites and develop priorities for emergency restoration work. NRCS will coordinate restoration work with local government and state agencies**

**Watershed restoration work will begin as soon as possible. Public sponsors, such as Georgia's Soil Conservation Districts and state or local governments, provide right-of-way access to land and 25 percent of restoration costs which may be through in-kind services. The EWP Program provides the remaining 75 percent of restoration costs to respond to emergencies caused by natural disasters, such as Hurricane QQQQQ.**

**EWP is designed to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. All EWP work must reduce threats to life and property and be economically, environmentally and socially defensible.**

**EWP assistance can include: removing debris from stream channels, road culverts and bridges, reshaping and protecting eroded streambanks, correcting damaged drainage facilities, reseeding damaged areas and purchasing floodplain easements.**

**As USDA's lead conservation agency, NRCS will bring state, federal and local agencies together through the EWP Program to restore the natural resources and infrastructures of this disaster.**

**If you feel your area has suffered severe damage and may qualify under the EWP Program, you are encouraged to contact your local NRCS office for assistance. Local NRCS offices can provide more information about the eligibility requirements for assistance through the EWP Program or other USDA disaster assistance programs.**

**NRCS offices can be reached by calling:**

**ZZZZZ County**

**(XXX) XXX-XXXX**

**YYYYY County**

**(XXX) XXX-XXXX**