

## PL566 WATERSHED PROGRAM FACT SHEET - NRCS-UTAH



**Authority:** Public Law 83-566 (PL566) the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, as amended.

**Scope:** National Watershed Program Manual (NWPM) sets the policy for all watershed plans developed under the Watershed Program. No project funded for planning or implementation under PL566 authority unless it meets all requirements set forth

**Project Sponsors:** Local organizations (as defined in PL566, Section 2), that have legal authority and resources to install, operate, and maintain works of improvement. Local leadership, support and involvement is key for these type of projects.

**Overview:** Program requires the development of physically, environmentally, socially and economically sound watershed project plans with actions scheduled for implementation over a specified period of years. Actions are within a specified geographic area by sponsors for the benefit of the general public.

**General Purposes:** **a)** Preventing damage from erosion, floodwater, and sediment; **b)** Furthering conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water; **c)** Furthering conservation and proper utilization of land

**Authorized Project Purposes: CS= Cost-Share (NRCS share)**

- 1) Flood Prevention (*Flood Damage Reduction*) - 100%CS
- 2) Watershed Protection – up to 75% CS
- 3) Public Recreation – 50% CS
- 4) Public Fish and Wildlife – 50% CS
- 5) Agricultural Water Management – up to 75% CS
- 6) Municipal & Industrial Water Supply - 50% CS
- 7) Water Quality Management – % TBD planning
- 8) Watershed Structure Rehabilitation - 65% CS

Watershed Projects State Web Page:  
[bit.ly/waterops](http://bit.ly/waterops)

**Maximum Watershed Size:** 250,000 acres (*for individual dam site drainage*) --> can be discontinuous sub-watersheds.

**Maximum Structure:** No structure providing more than 12,500 ac-feet of floodwater detention or > 25K total capacity

**Economics:** Show allocations per Purpose. Benefits and costs may be expressed in monetary & nonmonetary terms.

Must contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including rural communities --> account for **20%** of the total benefits.

**Recreation Development Limitations:**

- 1 development in watershed less than 75,000 acres
- 2 developments for watersheds 75,000 to 150,000 acres
- 3 developments (max) for watersheds greater than 150,000 acres

**Sponsor Responsibilities:**

- 1) **Power of Eminent Domain** : At least one Sponsor must have so that it may acquire real property, water, other.
- 2) **Permits and Licenses** : Sponsor must acquire needed permits, and licenses per local, State & Federal laws.
- 3) **Authority to Levy Taxes**: At least one Sponsor must have and exercise authority to levy taxes.
- 4) **Land Treatment above Reservoirs**: Sponsor must obtain agreements from landowners to implement soil conservation plans that meet NRCS Field Office Technical Guide criteria....on not less than 50 percent of the lands situated in the drainage area above each retention reservoir to be installed with Program funds.
- 5) **Public Participation**: Sponsor must arrange and carry out activities that encourage public to participate in planning.
- 6) **Financial**: Sponsor must show evidence of commitment for funding, installing, operating and O&M. Sponsor will perform all contracting for construction of any structure...except upon request NRCS may perform.
- 7) **Watershed Management**: Sponsor must implement needed watershed management features such as permitting, zoning, land use regulations, easements or upstream watershed protection.
- 8) **Municipal & Industrial (M&I) Water** : Sponsor must provide all technical services to implement M&I water supply. USDA to be reimbursed for at least one-half of the cost of M&I storage for current demand and all of the cost of M&I storage for future
- 9) **Operation and Maintenance**: Sponsor use authority to ensure installation, operation and maintenance as planned.
- 10) **Storm and Sanitary Sewers**: Storm & sanitary sewers, or relocations and changes to existing = sole cost of Sponsor.

**Contact 1:** Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Water Resources, USDA-NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT [norm.evenstad@usda.gov](mailto:norm.evenstad@usda.gov) / 801-524-4569

**Contact 2:** Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coord., USDA-NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT, [derek.hamilton@usda.gov](mailto:derek.hamilton@usda.gov) / 801-524-4560