East Troublesome Fire Watershed Recovery - video
Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act Watershed Programs Opportunities
NRCS Training Session - December 6 & 7th, 2021

WELCOME
Kevin Farmer, Branch Chief Watershed Programs

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS (WFPO) PROGRAM
Ralph Smith, National Watershed Operations Programs Manager

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM (REHAB)
Jesse Wilson, National Watershed Rehabilitation Program Manager

BREAK - 10 MINUTES

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION (EWP) PROGRAM
John Derbish, National EWP Program Coordinator

TIMELINES FOR PROJECT PHASE COMPLETION
Kevin Farmer, Branch Chief Watershed Programs

OPEN FORUM - Q & A
### Infrastructure Act Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Operations Program</td>
<td>$500 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehab Program</td>
<td>$118 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWP Program</td>
<td>$300 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$918 million</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program
(WFPO)

Program Information for Sponsors and Partners
Ralph Smith, National Program Manager

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center
Outline

- **Overview of the Watershed Operations Program**
  - PL-566 Background
  - Purpose and Need
  - Statutory Requirements
  - Financial Assistance
  - Funding
- **Working with your State NRCS Staff**
  - State Conservationist and Program Manager Roles
  - Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Reports
Watershed Operations Program
PL-566 Background

Flood Prevention Operations Program authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534)

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566)
Watershed Operations Program

Purpose and Need

General Purposes

- Preventing damage from erosion, floodwater, and sediment
- Furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water
- Furthering the conservation and proper utilization of land
Watershed Operations Program

Purpose and Need

Authorized Purposes

- Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)
- Watershed Protection
- Public Recreation
- Public Fish and Wildlife
- Agricultural Water Management
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
- Water Quality Management
- Watershed Structure Rehabilitation
Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)

Flood prevention or flood damage reduction measures are installed to prevent or reduce damages caused by floodwater. Flood damage reduction is further defined as the control and disposal of surface water caused by abnormally high direct precipitation, stream overflow, or floods aggravated or caused by wind or tidal effects. Flood damage reduction and mitigation measures reduce or prevent floodwater damages by reducing runoff, erosion, and sediment; modifying the susceptibility of improvements in the floodplain to damage; removing damageable property from the floodplain; or reducing the frequency, depth, or velocity of flooding. Measures may also include actions that prevent encroachment into the floodplain.
Watershed Operations Program
Purpose and Need

Watershed Protection

Watershed protection consists of onsite treatment of watershed natural resources concerns for the primary purpose of reducing offsite floodwater, erosion, sediment, and agriculture-related pollutants. Watershed protection plans may include ecosystem restoration type activities. ... Project measures for watershed protection include land treatment practices installed by land users to conserve and develop any of the following:
- Soil
- Water quality and quantity
- Woodland
- Fish and wildlife habitats
- Energy
- Recreation and scenic resources
Public Recreation

Public recreation developments may be included in a watershed project plan when the SLO agrees to operate and maintain a reservoir or other area for public recreation. Project measures must include only minimum basic facilities needed for public health and safety and access to, and use of the area. Minimum basic facilities may include picnic areas, sanitary facilities, fishing piers, shelters, cooking grills, parking areas, swimming beaches, access roads, water, and trails. Also included are practices to provide needed access, water, and power.
Watershed Operations Program

Purpose and Need

Public Fish and Wildlife

Fish and wildlife development areas may be included in a watershed project plan when the SLO agrees to operate and maintain a reservoir or other area for public fish and wildlife access. Measures installed for public use of areas developed to improve the habitat or the environment for the breeding, growth, and development of fish and wildlife may be included in a watershed project plan.
Agricultural Water Management

Agricultural water management includes drainage, ground water recharge, irrigation, water conservation, water quality improvement, and agricultural (including rural communities) water supply. Measures planned for these purposes are installed on non-Federal land by the SLO to benefit groups of landowners and communities. Measures on Federal land will be installed and maintained in accordance with mutually satisfactory arrangements among the SLO, the land administering agency, and NRCS.
Municipal and Industrial Water Supply

Municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply includes measures necessary to provide storage capacity in reservoirs to increase the availability of water for present and future municipal and industrial use. Needed outlet works and pipelines to convey water from the reservoir to the existing or proposed treatment facilities or water system are also considered project measures. The planning, design and installation of municipal and industrial water wells, water treatment plants, distribution systems, and electric distribution facilities fall outside the scope of the Watershed Program.
Watershed Operations Program
Purpose and Need

Water Quality Management

Water quality management measures provide water storage capacity in reservoirs for regulation of stream flow to improve water quality in streams.
Watershed Structure Rehabilitation

Watershed structure rehabilitation is covered in Public Law 83-566 Section 14, which authorizes financial assistance to local organizations to cover a portion of the costs of rehabilitating dams originally constructed as part of a project carried out under any of the following four authorities—Public Law 83-566, Public Law 78-534, the pilot watershed program authorized under the Department of Agriculture Appropriation Act of 1954, or the Resource Conservation and Development Program authorized by the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981.
Watershed Operations Program

Purpose and Need

What do we mean by Need?
Watershed Operations Program
Statutory Requirements

• The Sponsor must meet eligibility requirements.
• The request is for $25 million or less in NRCS funds.
• Agricultural benefits, including those to rural communities, comprise at least 20 percent of benefits.
• The project acreage is less than 250,000 acres in size.
• The project does not include any single structure that provides more than 12,500 acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity.
• The project provides no more than 25,000 acre-feet of total capacity.
# Watershed Operations Program
## Financial Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Engineering Technical Assistance</th>
<th>Installation Construction</th>
<th>Real Property Rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood Prevention</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Protection</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Engineering Technical Assistance</th>
<th>Installation Construction</th>
<th>Real Property Rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Water Management (Drainage, Irrigation, Ground Water Recharge, Agricultural Water Supply Structure, Water Conservation, Water Quality)</td>
<td>Up to 100%</td>
<td>Up to 75%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Water Quality Management</td>
<td>Up to 100%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Municipal &amp; Industrial Water Supply</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>No more than 50%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundwater Recharge</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Up to 75%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table is an excerpt from the National Watershed Manual Figure 500-E2, it should not be used to establish program cost sharing amounts by Purpose.
Watershed Operations Program
Funding

Fiscal Year 2021

➢ $175 million in discretionary funds
  • Planning
  • Design
  • Construction

➢ $50 million in mandatory funding (FarmBill)
Watershed Operations Program
Funding

Fiscal Year 2022

- $500 million in discretionary funds
  - Western Drought and Water
  - Historically Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged
  - Tribal Communities
  - New Sponsors
Watershed Operations Program
Working with your State NRCS Staff
Watershed Operations Program
Working with your State NRCS Staff

- Sponsor Project Idea
- State NRCS Determines Initial Project Program Compatibility
- State NRCS Develops Preliminary Investigation and Feasibility Report
- State NRCS Submits Funding Requests For Planning to NRCS NHQ
- NRCS NHQ provides funds to various phases of authorized Projects
Recap

- Overview of the Watershed Operations Program
  - PL-566 Background
  - Purpose and Need
  - Statutory Requirements
  - Financial Assistance
  - Funding
- Working with your State NRCS Staff
  - State Conservationist and Program Manager Roles
  - Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Reports
Watershed Rehabilitation Program
Authorization

Public Law 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954, as amended, Section 14.

• Provides technical and financial assistance to rehabilitate NRCS project dams that do not meet current NRCS and State design and safety criteria and performance standards and extend the service life.
Dam Rehabilitation

Public Law 83-566 Section 14 (a) (1):

• “Rehabilitation” means completion of all work necessary to extend service life of dams and meet safety and performance standards.
Project Dams

11,850 dams constructed in 1,271 watersheds since 1948
Project Eligibility

• Dams originally constructed through a NRCS Watershed Program
  o PL 83-566
  o PL 78-534
  o Pilot Watershed Program
  o Resource Conservation and Development

• Dams past their evaluated life

• O&M must be current (not for operation and maintenance activities)
Sponsor Responsibilities

- Power of eminent domain
- Acquire permits and licenses required
- Authority to levy taxes
- Arrange for and carry out activities that involve the public participation in planning
- Commitment of funding for required cost share and operation and maintenance
NRCS Strategic Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Up to 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan EA/EIS</td>
<td>Up to 18 months (goal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Up to 24 months (goal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (Rehabilitation)</td>
<td>2 - 3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation – Dam Assessment
Dam Assessment

Public Law 83-566 Section 14 (i) - NRCS will assess the condition of “all” dams covered in the rehabilitation amendments.

• Priority given to high hazard dams.
Hazard Class

• Low hazard Potential — dams in rural or agricultural areas where failure may damage farm buildings, agricultural land, or township and country roads (8,360 dams).

• Significant Hazard Potential — dams in predominantly rural or agricultural areas where failure may damage isolated homes, main highways, or minor railroads, or interrupt service of relatively important public utilities (1,070 dams).

• High Hazard Potential — dams where failure may cause loss of life or serious damage to homes, industrial or commercial buildings, important public utilities, main highways, or railroads (2,420 dams).
What is a Dam Assessment

A preliminary investigation of the condition of the dam:

• on-sight evaluation
• estimate of breach routing
• risk to the public should the dam fail; population at risk
• failure and risk index
• design and safety issues
• rehabilitation alternatives and estimated costs
Purpose of Dam Assessment

An assessment is a written report containing data for the sponsor to use in determining whether to proceed with rehabilitation of their aging dam.

REHABILITATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

Souhegan River Site 8 Dam
Hillsborough County, New Hampshire

National Inventory of Dams ID: NH00474
New Hampshire Dam Number: D147028
Hazard Classification: High

August 2016
Dam Assessment Process

**Sponsor** – Request assistance by letter to the NRCS State Conservationist

**Funding Priority** – High hazard dams; dams where failure may cause loss of life or serious damage to homes, industrial and commercial buildings, important public utilities, main highways, or railroads

**Report** – Prepared by (1) NRCS staff or engineering firm hired by NRCS or (2) by Sponsor through an agreement with NRCS

**Cost** – $20,000 to $35,000 (funded 100% by NRCS)
Implementation - Planning
Rehabilitation Application

Submit letter of request with the following information for each dam.

- Project name
- Dam number
- Original project authority
- Dam location (legal description)
- A list of sponsors with O&M responsibilities for the dam
- The names, addresses, and contact information for the sponsor designated contact persons
- Year the dam was constructed
- Description of existing condition and known rehabilitation needs of the dam, including status of O&M
Rehabilitation Application (Cont.)

• Description of the current benefits provided by the dam (including documentation of reduced flooding damages from past events if it is available)

• Dam safety agency information, permit needs, comments, recommendations on rehabilitation needs for the specific dam, and a copy of any action order issued by the State dam safety agency

Sponsor also submits application to the State agency having supervisory responsibility (EO 12372 "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs")
Rehabilitation Application (Cont.)

Sponsor submits application and commits to the following:

• Assist in leading locally led planning effort.

• Obtain needed land rights including the use of power of eminent domain, if necessary.

• Provide local cost-share funds, in-kind services, or both to provide the required 35 percent of total eligible project costs.

• Enter into a new O&M agreement with NRCS, with the understanding of the terms of the new O&M agreement.
Rehabilitation Application (Cont.)

• Provide funds for continuing O&M actions.
• Obtain required permits and approvals at their own cost.
• Provide leadership to assure adequate land treatment measures have been installed and maintained on at least 50 percent of the watershed area above the dam.
• Execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NRCS before being credited with the value of any in-kind contribution.
Ranking Applications for Funding

- Potential for dam failure
- Consequences for dam failure
- Meeting the NRCS approved implementation plan.
Rehabilitation Watershed Plan

A combined planning document that includes documentation of the planning process, NEPA, PR&G, and other laws and EO compliance.

– Plan-Environmental Evaluation (EE)
– Plan-Environmental Assessment (EA)
– Plan-Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Multi-disciplinary Team Approach

- Economics
- Environmental
- Engineering
- Planning
- Economics
- Environmental
- Planning
- Engineering

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
Nine Steps of Planning

1. Identify Problems and Opportunities
2. Determine Objectives
3. Inventory Resources
4. Analyze Resource Data
5. Formulae Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions
8. Implement the Plan
9. Evaluate the Plan
Plan Content

- Cover
- Abstract
- Watershed Agreement
- Table of Contents
- Summary
- Purpose and Need for Action
- Scope
- Affected Environment
- Alternatives
- Environmental Consequences
- Consultation, Coordination, and Public Participation
- The Preferred Alternative
- References
Plan Approval

• Sponsor signs Watershed Agreement

• NRCS State Conservationist submits plan to NRCS Chief for authorization.

• Once authorized, plan is approved for funding dependent upon availability of funds.
Plan Cost and Development

- NRCS provides 100% of cost to develop plan
- 18 months (goal) to complete plan
- Plan development:
  - NRCS staff or NRCS contract with engineering firm
  - Sponsor through an agreement with NRCS
Implementation - Design
Implementation – Design Criteria

NRCS TR-60 - describes design procedures and provides minimum requirements for planning and designing earth dams and associated spillways... to ensure consistent performance...”
Design Development and Cost

• NRCS covers 100% of design cost
• Design developed by:
  o NRCS Staff or engineering firm hired by NRCS
  o Sponsor Agreement
• Must meet NRCS design criteria
• Requires review and concurrence by NRCS
Implementation - Construction
Sponsor Responsibility – Pre-Construction

- Obtain permits
- Agree to New O&M Agreement & Plan
- Certify land rights
- Certify emergency action plan for high hazard dam
Construction Implementation

Construction Accomplished by:

- NRCS Federal Contract
- Sponsor led through an agreement with NRCS

Cost Share:

- NRCS provides 65% of total project cost not to exceed 100% construction costs
# Rehabilitation Cost Share

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Installation/Construction</th>
<th>Engineering/Technical Assistance</th>
<th>Real Property Rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>No more than 100 percent (^1/, 2/)</td>
<td>No more than 100 percent (^1/)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1/\) Specific rate established in the statute.

\(^2/\) Cost-share must be up to 65 percent of total eligible dam rehabilitation project costs or up to 100 percent of construction costs (including required (in-kind or decent/safe/sanitary) relocation costs), whichever is less.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Eligible Project Cost for Cost-Share Computation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Technical Assistance:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning 1/</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Administration 2/</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Federal Technical Assistance:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning 1/</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Administration 2/</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Rights 3/</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Rights</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal, State, and Local Permits</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relocation Payments</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Replacement in Kind</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Decent, Safe, Sanitary</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond Required Safe and Sanitary</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Planning includes inventory and analysis necessary to formulate and evaluate alternatives and prepare the project plan; 2/ Includes relocation assistance advisory services. 3/ Includes land rights associated with relocation.
**REHAB – SUCCESS STORY**

**Project Name** – Hibernia Dam and Chambers Lake Reservoir

**Location** – Chester County, PA

**Sponsor** – Chester County Water Resources Authority

**Issue** – no longer met current state or Federal design criteria and performance standards

**Measure** – rock filter toe, regrading of the downstream bench, and installation of a concrete cutoff wall in the auxiliary spillway

**Construction Cost** – $960,535

**Accomplishment** – flood protection, recreation, and water supply for the local communities
Funds Request Summary

Sponsor submits phase request to NRCS State Office for project funding with required documents.

NRCS State Conservationist reviews request and determines if project is eligible for funding.

NRCS State Conservationist submits eligible projects and required documentation supporting funding request to NHQ.

Sponsor receives notice of funding approval.
Dull Knife Dam, Wyoming

**Location:** Johnson County, WY

**Sponsor:** Dull Knife Irrigation District of Johnson County

**Issue:** Erosion of auxiliary rock spillway

**Measures:** Widening the auxiliary spillway; raising the top of the dam; riprap protection; and installation of abutment drains

**NRCS Cost:** $3,937,500.00

**Accomplishments:** Flood protection for 77 people in 21 residences, 3 major roads, and other major infrastructure downstream
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TIMELINES FOR PROJECT PHASE COMPLETION
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OPEN FORUM - Q & A
Emergency Watershed Protection
Introduction for Sponsors and Partners
Introduction to the EWP Program

Natural Occurrences

- Floods
- Fires
- Windstorms
- Ice storms
- Hurricanes/Typhoons
- Tornadoes
- Earthquakes
- Volcanic actions
- Slides
- Drought

Flooding and Erosion Protection
A natural disaster causes a watershed impairment

Sponsor formally requests assistance

NRCS documents eligible damages and estimates costs

Sponsor and NRCS enter formal agreement to carryout emergency work
EWPP - SUCCESS STORY

Sheridan Landslide

Would not have been completed without EWP Program

Sponsor = Sheridan School District
• Slide directly across from school

NRCS assisted with erosion prevention
• Stream widened

City paid for path and aesthetic with grants

Delivered through a design build process
The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to undertake emergency watershed protection measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements, for runoff retardation and soil-erosion prevention, in cooperation with landowners and land users, as the Secretary deems necessary to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed.
EWP Provides Recovery Assistance

Federal Emergency Declaration → EWP Program Available → Local Watershed Emergency

NRCS/Local Coordination
- Identify EWP Opportunities
- Flooding Protection
- Stop Additional Erosion

EWP Measures
- Remove Threats
- Restore the Natural Environment
- Can Use NRCS Conservation Practices
# How to Contact NRCS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local NRCS Contact</td>
<td><a href="https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app">https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS State Conservationist</td>
<td><a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Eligibility

- Natural Event
- Watershed Impairment
- Imminent Threat

Watershed Emergency

Property EWP Program Can Be Used to Protect:
- Permanent structures
- Houses & Buildings
- Roads & Utilities
- Dams & Flood Control

EWP Program Cannot Be Used to Protect Only:
- Standing Timber
- Orchards
- Agronomic crops
  (other USDA programs are available for Ag Land)
EWP Sponsors

EWP Assistance
- Technical
- Financial

Recipient
- Sponsor
- Landowner (if easement preferred by NRCS)

Eligible Sponsors
- State
- Political Subdivision of State
- Qualified Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization
- Unit of local government
- All sponsors must have a legal interest in or responsibility for the areas threatened

Sponsor Responsibilities
- Share of project costs as determined by NRCS as cash or in-kind services
- Real property rights, water rights, and regulatory permits
- Provide for required O&M as determined necessary by NRCS
- Document they have insufficient resources to provide adequate relief
Sponsor Requests for Assistance

Date
• Disaster
• or Safe Site Access

Within 60 Days

Sponsor Must Formally Request for Assistance

Template Letter
• A State’s EWP Program Manager can provide
• Using template ensures a complete request
Limits on EWP Assistance

- Situations where EWPP cannot provide assistance:
  - The same structural practice 3 times within 10 years
  - Existing operation and maintenance
  - Repair or rebuild, or maintain any transportation facilities, utilities, or similar facilities
  - If funded by NRCS, on Federal lands if such assistance augments the appropriations of other Federal agency
  - Repair of nonstructural management practices, such as conservation tillage
  - Repair coastal erosion to beaches, dunes, and shorelines, including those along the Great Lakes
  - The recovery measures are instead eligible for the Emergency Conservation Program (FSA)
EWP Examples
Practice Modifications and Increased Protection

Cost-Shared Modifications
- Technology advances
- Construction techniques
- Federal permitting requirements

Not Cost-Shared
- Increased the level of protection
Eligible EWP Practices

'every time, all the time' EWP Conditions

- Provide protection from flooding or soil erosion
- Reduce threats to life or property
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment to the maximum extent practical
- Be economically/environmentally defensible & technically sound

The Fine Print

- NRCS may determine that a measure is not eligible for assistance for any reason.
- NRCS will not provide funding for activities undertaken by a sponsor prior to the signing of an agreement.
EWP Examples

Erosion Protection
Steps to Fund Availability

**Informal Discussions**
- Meetings and site visits between NRCS and a sponsor can occur at any time

**Formal Sponsor Request**
- NRCS will investigate and make the determination if EWP assistance is applicable

**Damage Survey Report**
- NRCS completes the DSR. The DSR contains the proposed EWP practices and estimates the cost. The DSR is completed within 60 days of the formal sponsor request

**Funds Available in NRCS**
- If national funds available and the DSR meets the requirements, funding will be provided to the NRCS State Conservationist
- If EWP funds are not available, the DSR will be placed on waitlist
Planning Considerations

- Environmental Impacts
- Cultural & Wildlife Resources
- Least Damaging
- Construction
- Economical
- Practical

United States Department of Agriculture

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
Fund Usage and the Formal Agreement

**Previous Steps**
- Formal Sponsor Request
- NRCS Completes the Damage Survey Report
- Funds Allocated within NRCS for EWP work

**NRCS Funds Available**
- Financial assistance (FA) funds are used for the NRCS share of construction and mitigation cost
- Technical Assistance (TA) funds are used for planning, design, contract administration, and construction inspection

**Formal Agreement**
- Details the responsibilities and cost share of NRCS and Sponsor
- Will document if/how funding will be provided to a sponsor based on the sponsor’s contribution to planning, design, and construction
Fund Types

**FA Funds**
- Construction Cost
  - Sponsor Agreement
  - Federal Contract

**TA Funds**
- Technical Services
  - Sponsor Agreement
  - Federal Contract
  - NRCS Staff
Construction Time Limits

Standard Timeline
- DSR completed and Funds Allocated
- 220 days
- Construction Complete

Exigency Timeline
- DSR completed and Funds Allocated
- 10 days
- Construction Complete
Construction Cost-Sharing

Standard Cost Share = NRCS up to 75%

Limited Resource Area = NRCS up to 90%
Sponsor Contributions

Note: Other Federal grants cannot be used for a sponsor’s matching share for EWP recovery measures.

Sponsor Construction Cost-Share
- Cash
- In-kind services determined by NRCS
- Cash/In-kind Combination

Sponsor Responsibilities and Costs
- Property/water rights, and permit
- Operation and Maintenance
- All services not considered in-kind as determined by the NRCS
Conclusion

The EWP Program provides protection from flooding and soil erosion when necessary to safeguard lives and property when a natural occurrence causes a watershed impairment.

Sponsor Request for Assistance
- Units of government
- Sponsors have responsibilities during planning, design, construction, and maintenance

Damage Survey Report
- NRCS will propose practices and cost estimates
- NRCS follows requirements, limits, and practice eligibility criteria when providing financial assistance

Formal Agreement
- The agreement will detail responsibilities and cost share
- The agreement will document if and how funding is provided based on the sponsor’s role during planning, design, and construction
How to Contact NRCS

Local NRCS Contact
- https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app

State EWP Program Manager

NRCS State Conservationist
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Up to 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIFR</td>
<td>Up to 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan EA/EIS</td>
<td>Up to 18 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Up to 24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (WFPO/Rehab)</td>
<td>2-3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (EWPP-Recovery)</td>
<td>220 days after funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Due By Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS conducts Agency Coordination workshop</td>
<td>November 22, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS conducts Agency watershed program funding training 1</td>
<td>November 30, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS conducts Agency watershed program funding training 2</td>
<td>December 2, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS conducts Public watershed program funding training 1</td>
<td>December 6, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Teams Live Event)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS conducts Public watershed program funding training 2</td>
<td>December 7, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Teams Live Event)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS releases the updated National Watershed Program Manual</td>
<td>December 30, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS makes decision on initial project funding selections.</td>
<td>January 29, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release of funds</td>
<td>February 18, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for attending. A recording will be available on our website nrcs.usda.gov