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Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program



Helping Communities Recover After Natural Disasters

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NC NRCS EWP Program Manager



Natural
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nrcs.usda.gov/

Conservation Planning

9-Step Process

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

EWP Program Purpose

The objective of the EWP Program is to assist sponsors, landowners, and operators in implementing emergency recovery measures for runoff retardation and erosion prevention to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.



EWP Program Purpose

**PROTECT UNDAMAGED
STRUCTURES &
INFRASTRUCTURE FROM
FURTHER DAMAGE**

Hazardous Debris

**EWP Definition of Property:
any artificial structure permanently
affixed to the land**



EWP Program Purpose

\$\$\$ BENEFITS
(i.e. VALUE of PROTECTION)
MUST BE GREATER THAN
COSTS to Implement
PROTECTIONS



Eligible Program Sponsors

- Any legal subdivision of a State government or State agency, city, town, district, commission, SWCDs, etc.
- Native Americans Tribes and Tribal organizations.

Note: Private individuals can only participate in EWP recovery assistance through a Sponsor (no exceptions)



Sponsor Responsibilities

- Enter into a locally-led, cooperative agreement with NRCS (forms, forms, **forms!** & timelines)
- Sponsor obtains land rights & permits (non-reimbursable)
- Sponsor responsible for contracting services, O&M and administration of agreement



Sponsor Responsibilities

- All eligible work is reimbursed; no up front monies, no reimbursements before agreement doc signed by all parties (Sponsor & State Conservationist)
- FA (construction) and TA (admin) accounts
- Cost share required on FA (75/25 or 90/10)
- Prioritize sites (competitive funding)



Typical Program Time Line

- EVENT HAPPENS
- 60 Days for Sponsor to Request
- 60 Days for Damage Survey Reports (DSRs)
- Factor 30 to 60 Days for Agreement Development
- EWP Time Commitment
 - EWP: 30 to 120 Days upfront



Eligible Measures

Program Eligibility
should be very
apparent from site
documentation



Limitations

- EWP Program funds **cannot** reimburse project sponsors for work performed before formal agreement obligating funds has been signed.
- Detailed working arrangements must be established between sponsors and NRCS before starting construction/installation: project agreement.
- May be used to repair previously installed measures funded through Public Law 83-156, Public Law 83-566, Public Law 78-534, or Public Law 97-98: O&M current, no pre-disaster issues.



Limitations

- No O&M related work
- No solving watershed problems that existed prior
- No repair, rebuild, or maintain public or private transportation facilities
- No work on USACE MOA items: repairs to non-Federal flood protection projects (channels, levees, or similar works) in urbanized areas
- No repair coastal erosion (Outer Banks)



Limitations

- No increasing channel pre-disaster capacity
- No Animal Carcass Disposal except if watercourse debris may create imminent hazard to life/property.
- No landscaping
- No irrigation infrastructure repair
- No repair practices eligible under ECP (FSA)



Reality



- Site by site evaluation/technical determination
- Agreements/Monies may take up to a year to develop
- EWP: Eventual Watershed Protection



NCEA&CS Support for EWP Local Sponsors



**Division of Soil & Water Conservation
coordinates with NRCS to allocate funds to
local sponsors with approved EWP sites**

**Provides funds to cover the 25% (or 10%) non-
federal match**

**Separate state contract with the local sponsor
(not part of USDA contract)**

**Match for EWP is typically highest priority for
state appropriated funds**



NCD&CS Support for EWP Local Sponsors



May include funds for other stream debris removal or similar activities beyond what is approved for EWP

NCD&CS and NRCS EWP agreement includes additional support for TA/administration/engineering by SWCD & Division personnel.

No recurring appropriation, requires Gen. Assembly action to appropriate funds for this purpose



EWP Process

- **Natural Disaster has to occur.**
- **Disaster must be declared: Fed or STC may declare.**
- **Project Sponsor request EWP assistance & provides POC.**
- **When Safe, Site Assessments & Damage Survey Report is prepared by NRCS with Sponsor Participation.**
- **Upon NHQ approval, funding is provided as available.**
- **220 days to complete projects**
- **10 days for exigent situations**



Actions to Take at Potential EWP Sites

- **Identify sites and provide aerial location maps with sites pinpointed (GE, ArcMap, whatever)**
- **Detailed photos of site(s), threatened properties, and extent of hazards**
- **Quantify hazards (length, height, extents, etc.)**
- **Detailed narrative of site damages, imminent hazards, alternatives to address damages, economic justification**
- **Contact local NRCS or SWCD**
- **Dedicate assets to assist w/program**





Debris Removal

Before



After



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Grade Stabilization

Before



After



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Service



Local Office/Team

Roles and Responsibilities

- Be familiarized with the EWP Program
- Serve as the local facilitator for EWP activities w/Area Office.
- Assist with Preliminary Assessment to evaluate potential EWP assistance.
- Each Area should have an EWP Team identified and ready to assist along with admin support
- For large disasters, EWP will likely be the **PRIORITY** for 30 to 120 days



Contact Information



Interested Sponsors should contact their local NRCS office to arrange site visits and assessments once conditions are safe to do so.

**NC NRCS EWP Program Manager
Jim Kjelgaard
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Questions



Provide 5 examples of EWP Sponsors found
In North Carolina



Questions



What's EWP's requirement for costs/benefits

Costs must be greater than benefits

Benefits must be less than costs

Benefits may be greater than costs

Benefits must be greater than costs



Questions



How many times can a site be repaired
in 10 years using EWP funding?

a) 1

b) unlimited

c) 3

d) 2

e) 10

f) Site by site, event by event analysis



Questions



What does EWP require for a private landowner to participate in the EWP program?



Questions



What's being protected in these photos?



Good – Hazard and Infrastructure Clearly Shown



Latitude: 34.257247
Longitude: -78.037495
Elevation: 12.34m
Accuracy: 4.3m
Time: 12-17-2018 13:24
Note: Brunswick12

Powered by NoteCam

Good – Hazard and Infrastructure Clearly Shown



Latitude: 35.249455
Longitude: -79.30098
Elevation: 74.31m
Accuracy: 3.2m
Time: 12-12-2018 08:46
Note: moore

Powered by NoteCam

FEMA may remove large fallen trees near major roads.

Decent – Hazard and Infrastructure Shown



Latitude: 34.307053
Longitude: -78.599206
Elevation: 10.56m
Accuracy: 4.3m
Time: 12-18-2018 12:53
Note: city of whiteville9

Powered by NoteCam

Can only barely see infrastructure

NOT Good – No Hazard or Infrastructure Shown



Latitude: 34.24133
Longitude: -78.03304
Elevation: 0.37m
Accuracy: 3.2m
Time: 02-26-2019 11:09
Note: 4-2

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NOT Good – Debris shown, but Hazard Unclear



Latitude: 34.256853
Longitude: -78.017817
Elevation: 16.4m
Accuracy: 4.3m
Time: 12-17-2018 13:49
Note: Brunswick14

Powered by NoteCam

Not Good – Hazard not clear



Latitude: 36.254917
Longitude: -80.238185
Elevation: 195.13m
Accuracy: 7.5m
Time: 12-29-2018 09:42
Note: Buffalo Creek Farm 5

Powered by NoteCam

Fence not considered structure.
Farmland not considered property/infrastructure under EWP

Good – Hazard and Threatened Structure Shown



Example Exigency Site

Good Status Picture



Good after picture showing structure and repair



Decent – What is the Hazard/Needs Description



Decent – Hazard and Infrastructure Shown



Latitude: 34.257261
Longitude: -78.037268
Elevation: 9.34m
Accuracy: 3.2m
Time: 12-17-2018 13:25
Note: Brunswick13

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**HOWEVER; Not EWP Eligible
(O&M not complete, Full Trees grown in waterway)**

Not good – Hazard and Infrastructure Not Clear



Latitude: 34.344221
Longitude: -78.668038
Elevation: 17.41m
Accuracy: 3.2m
Time: 12-18-2018 12:45
Note: city of whiteville8

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Low lying area prone to flooding – NOT EWP eligible



Reminder- Private property requires a Sponsor

Decent – Hazard and Infrastructure Shown



Latitude: 34.792612
Longitude: -79.442954
Elevation: 63.89m
Accuracy: 4.3m
Time: 12-11-2018 13:11
Note: Scotland county 4

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Need more context for what the hazard to culverts is

Low lying area prone to flooding – NOT EWP eligible



Latitude: 34.691301
Longitude: -79.52238
Elevation: 57.8m
Accuracy: 5.4m
Time: 12-12-2018 15:34
Note: scotland2

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Good picture – Keep in mind value of repair must be less than the value of the infrastructure threatened.

Good Picture – Hazard and Infrastructure shown



Road Repair not EWP eligible; Only debris removal and grading

Good Picture – Hazard and Infrastructure shown



Good Picture – Hazard and Infrastructure shown



Keep in mind – value of infrastructure includes benefit of road access to public and private businesses.

Decent – Hazard and Infrastructure shown



Hazard is unclear, how much erosion actually took place?

Decent – Hazard and Infrastructure shown



Latitude: 36.417242
Longitude: -80.714714
Elevation: 321.29m
Accuracy: 3.2m
Time: 04-06-2019 10:47
Note: 5-2

Powered by NoteCam

Keep in mind value of repair versus infrastructure

NOT EWP Eligible – Roadway repairs not allowed



Latitude: 34.930706
Longitude: -79.40075
Elevation: 88.74m
Accuracy: 5.4m
Time: 12-20-2018 11:45
Note: maybo

Powered by NoteCam

Not good – some debris shown, but hazard unclear



Latitude: 36.284696
Longitude: -80.592313
Elevation: 262.51m
Accuracy: 3.2m
Time: 04-09-2019 08:25
Note: 1-1

Powered by NoteCam