



United States Department of Agriculture



Emergency Watershed Protection Program - EWPP

November 18, 2021

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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The EWP Program is USDA NRCS's primary method of providing financial and technical assistance to help communities recover from sudden watershed impairments caused by natural disasters.

- Natural disasters can be of several types:
 - **Floods**
 - Fire
 - Drought
 - Windstorms
 - Earthquakes
- Recovery measures must reduce threats to life or property
- Must be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible
- Includes Recovery Assistance and Floodplain Easements
- Recovery Assistance must be through eligible project sponsors



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RECOVERY



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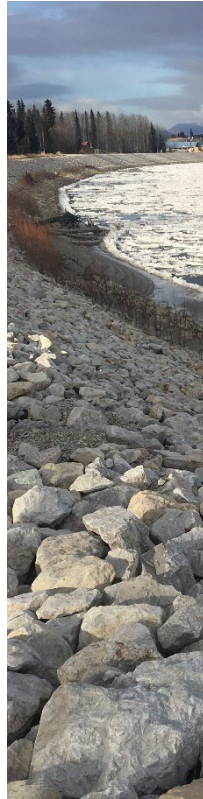


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Typical repairs include:

- Levee repair of breached levee systems
 - Levees on stream systems with less than 400 square miles of drainage area that are also:
 - Non-Federal Levees,
 - Non-USACE PL-84-99 eligible levees or
 - Non-FEMA Public Assistance eligible levees
- Sediment removal from drainage ditches
- Streambank stabilization near roads, bridges and buildings
- Logjam removal from channels



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Eligible Sponsors:

- State Governments
- Cities
- Towns
- Counties/Parishes
- Districts organized under State law (i.e. Drainage, Levee, Irrigation . . .)
- Municipal Authorities
- Native American Tribes and Tribal organization



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Sponsor Responsibilities:

- Make application for EWP Assistance (60 days)
- Obtain Land rights
- Secure Permits
- Provide design services (optional)
- Administer local contract for repairs or do the work with own Forces
- Provide sponsor contribution - 25% of Construction Cost (10% LRA [Limited Resource Area])
- Complete post project Operation and Maintenance (O&M)



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Eligible Measures:

- Damage caused by sudden watershed impairment
- Reduce threat to life or property
- Are economically, socially, and environmentally defensible and technically sound
 - Provide protection from additional flooding or erosion
 - Remove debris that affects runoff or erosion
 - Restore hydraulic capacity to channels
 - Disposal of animal carcasses when carcasses meet the definition of debris
 - Repair of damaged PL 83-156, PL 83-566, PL 78-534 or PL 97-98 structures (*NRCS Watershed Programs*)



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Non-Eligible Measures:

- Providing assistance on any Federal lands
- Providing assistance to Federal Aid Highways
- Repairing the same structure more the 2 times in 10 years
- Performing normal O&M activities
- Correcting pre-disaster damage
- Repairing transportation facilities
- **Repairing levees on channels with more than 400 square miles of drainage area or systems active in the PL 84-99 program (MOU USACE)**
- Increasing capacity or protection level



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Performance Time:

Exigent Situations

- Loss of life or property is imminent
- Expedited application and approval
- 10 days to complete work from funding



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Performance Time:

Non-Exigent Situations

- Threat to life and property is not imminent
- 220 days to complete work from funding



EWP Assistance Process:



Disaster Declaration

EWPP Activated (EDR)

Coordinate with FEMA (Stafford Act) and Other Partners

Sponsor Requests Assistance

Damage Survey Report (DSR)

DSR Review and Approval

Funding Allocated for the DSR

Cooperative Agreement with Sponsor

Plans, Permits and Land Rights

Work is Completed

Sponsor is Reimbursed for approved costs

Project Closeout



EWP Applications 2019 for Recovery

106 applications for assistance from Sponsors in 34 Counties

182 approved Damage Survey Reports (projects)

- \$47 Million Damage (\$35 Million in Financial Assistance)
- 66 Levee Systems
- 86 Drainage Systems
- 27 Streambank Stabilization
- 2 Logjam Debris Removal
- 1 PL-566 Project (Dams)



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FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS



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FLOODPLAIN EASEMENT



Voluntary Perpetual Easement:

- Purchased by the Federal Government through USDA
- One-time easement payment.

Landowners retain fee title and rights to:

- Control of public access
- Undeveloped recreational use of land



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FLOODPLAIN EASEMENT

Eligible Land:

Floodplain lands damaged by flooding once in previous calendar year

or twice in previous 10 years.



FLOODPLAIN EASEMENT



Restoration on floodplain easements will:

- Include all necessary conservation practices required to restore the floodplain functions of the site.
- NRCS may pay up to 100 percent of the restoration costs.



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FLOODPLAIN EASEMENT



Ranking:

- Evaluates:
 - Alleviation of current and or future threats to life, health, or property due to natural disasters
 - Environmental benefit that would be achieved due to enrollment of the land
 - Cost effectiveness of enrolling the land
- All eligible applications are given equal consideration

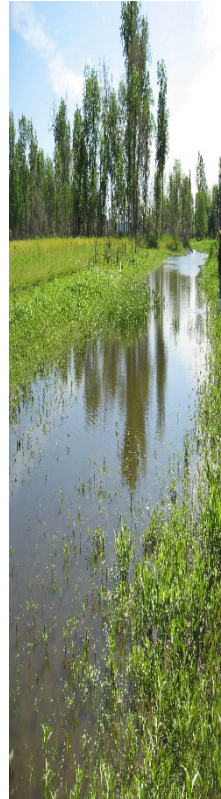


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EWP Applications 2019 for Floodplain Easements

- 190 Applications from landowners
- 33 Tracts approved
 - 6 associated with large-scale levee set-back
- 4,500 Acres enrolled in easements
- \$25 Million in easement payments
- Mostly in the Missouri River Floodplain



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USDA-Risk Management Agency (RMA) Breached Levee Certifications

- NRCS completed 15 Breached Levee Certifications for non-US Army Corps of Engineers assisted levee systems.
- Certification of levee repairs is required by RMA in order to set crop insurance premium rates.



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QUESTIONS?
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