

What Kind Of Work Can Be Done?

EWP work is not limited exclusively to prescribed measures. EWP can generally include:

- Remove debris
- Reshaping and protection of eroding banks
- Correction of damage drainage facilities
- Repair of levees and structures
- Reseeding of damaged areas

What EWP Cannot Do

- Perform operation and maintenance work
- Work on federal land
- Repair animal waste lagoons
- Repair, rebuild, or maintain public or private transportation facilities or facilities of Federal Highway Administration
- Increase pre-disaster channel capacity
- Remove sediment or debris from reservoirs
- Work on levees or rivers with drainage of greater than 400 square miles
- Landscaping for aesthetics
- Drill or modify wells, construct pipelines, install irrigation equipment, or purchase portable equipment
- Reimburse sponsors for work prior to a signed agreement for repair work



How To Get Assistance

If your area has suffered severe damage, it may qualify under the EWP program. As a state or local unit of government or tribal liaison, you may become a project sponsor. County and city governments and tribal organizations are the most common sponsors of EWP projects.

The sponsor should contact the local NRCS office within four days after the event and will later provide an application. The sponsor's application should be in the form of a letter signed by a qualified representative of the sponsoring organization. The letter should include information on the nature, location, and scope of the problem for which the assistance is requested. Additionally, the letter of application must document a lack of local funds available to complete the work.

Information is available from NRCS offices which explains the eligibility requirements for the EWP program.

Send applications for assistance to your local NRCS field office with a courtesy copy to the NRCS state headquarters in Stillwater. The address is:

State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 USDA Building, Room 206
Stillwater, OK 74074



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Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)

O k l a h o m a Program Information

Helping People Help the Land



What Is The Emergency Watershed Protection Program?

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) was created by Congress to respond to emergencies caused by natural disasters. The program is designed to help people reduce imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, tornados, fire, droughts, and other natural disasters. The purpose of the EWP program is to help communities with a common problem. It is not an individual assistance program. All projects undertaken must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the State, local, or tribal government such as a city, county commission, tribe, or conservation district.

The United States Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for administering the program.



What Is The Sponsor's Responsibility?

- Acquire land rights and property easements
- Secure necessary permits
- Provide a minimum 25 percent cost-share
- Assist with relocation of utilities
- Ensure compliance with operation and maintenance plans
- Accept requests for assistance from local landowners
- Publicize availability of the EWP Program
- Provide outreach to underserved communities

Kinds Of Assistance Available

Exigency — An imminent threat to life or property that requires immediate action. The site must be secured and public protected by limiting access to the site. Work must be completed within 10 days of accessing the site in order to protect life or property.

Emergency — An imminent threat to life and property exists but the threat is not considered exigent. Work does not require immediate action, but should be completed as soon as possible.

Criteria For Assistance

All EWP work must reduce threats to life and property by providing immediate, adequate, and safe relief from the hazard. Work must be economically and environmentally defensible, and the engineering sound.

Who Is Eligible?

The project sponsor must be a public entity with the State, county or city government, or associated with a tribal council (for work on tribal lands).

