

Fact Sheet

April 2013

Emergency Watershed Protection Floodplain Easements - Georgia

Introduction

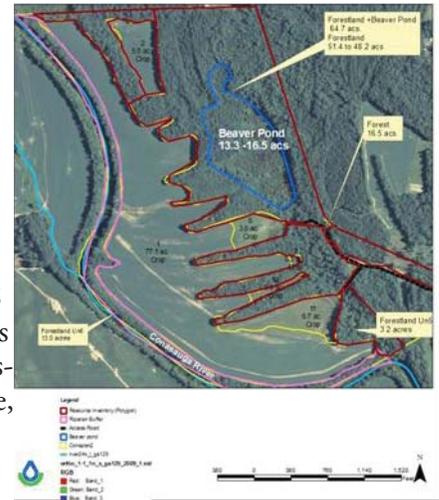
Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program is part of the Obama Administration's plan to jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. NRCS invested over \$2.4 million in Georgia. The Recovery Act created over 113,000 jobs across the Nation.

NRCS used Recovery Act dollars to acquire and restore land damaged by, or potentially damaged by, flooding across the State of Georgia.

Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain, and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, ground water recharge, and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion.

Background

Section 382 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127, amended the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program to provide for the purchase of floodplain easements as an emergency measure. Since 1996, NRCS has purchased floodplain easements on lands that qualify for EWP assistance. Floodplain easements restore, protect, maintain and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, ground water recharge, and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought and the products of erosion.



Results

NRCS-Georgia purchased five conservation easements in two counties in Georgia. Over \$2.4 million was used to purchase permanent easements on 564 acres and restore the habitat and function of the floodplain through - fencing out of livestock, tree planting, grass restoration, and other conservation practices.

