



# Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

## USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Program Objectives:** The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program provides assistance to relieve imminent hazards to life and property and to remove impairments that may cause additional damage. Hazards include floods and the products of erosion created by floods, fire, windstorms, or other natural disasters. The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for overall program administration and guidance.

**Program Sponsors:** Local sponsors request assistance for emergency situations through the EWP Program. City, county, state, and tribal governments or their political subdivisions sponsor Emergency Watershed Protection projects. Eligible sponsors must have the ability and legal authority to enter into contracts and obtain any needed land rights, water rights, and permits for the lands they sponsor. Program contracts and payments are administered either under Federal contract or through local sponsors. Sponsors are responsible for 25% of the construction cost. The 25% can be cash or in-kind services.

**Program Funding:** The EWP Program provides up to 75 percent of the cost of the watershed treatment or approved structural repairs. Funding must be provided by Congress and may not be immediately available. Work undertaken before Congress approves funding is ineligible for funding. Applications must be prepared for consideration.

**How to Get Assistance:** All requests for consideration under the EWP Program must be received within 60 days of the disaster for consideration. Contact your local USDA, NRCS office for assistance. Submit a formal request by letter to the NRCS State Conservationist at 8030 Excelsior Drive, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53717.

For more information, visit the Wisconsin NRCS website at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov>.

**Eligibility:** The NRCS works with the sponsors and other partners to identify structures, property, and other values that are at increased risk from flooding or erosion. Identified risks include human safety, property damage, water quality, threatened and endangered species, critical wildlife habitat, and cultural resources.

Watershed eligibility and applicant funding will be based on an assessment by NRCS of watershed conditions, identified values being threatened, potential damage costs, estimated treatment costs, social considerations, and environmental considerations.

**Types of Work:** Work under the EWP Program is not limited to a set of prescribed measures. The NRCS and sponsor(s) perform a case-by-case review of each site or work area. Some examples of types of work performed are:

- Storm debris removal from stream channels, road culverts, and bridge abutments.
- Reshaping of eroding stream banks.
- Protect destabilized streambanks.
- Repair of damaged drainage channels and public flood prevention structures.
- Establish cover on critically-eroding lands.

**Program Limitations:** EWP funds cannot be utilized to solve problems or remedy conditions that existed before the disaster or event occurred. This would include:

- Restoring conditions attributed to a lack of maintenance.
- Raising the level of protection from that which existed prior to the emergency.
- Providing operation and maintenance work or repair private or public transportation facilities or utilities.

Wisconsin

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