EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

Presented by Cori Calvert, District Conservationist

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

- Who is NRCS?
- What is EWP?
- Who is Eligible?
- What are Typical Measures?
- What are the Limitations of EWP?
- What is the Typical EWP Timeline?
- What are Sponsor Requirements + Responsibilities?
- How to Get Started?

USDA

NRCS

WHO IS NRCS?

- Provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land.
- Began as a result of 1930's Dust Bowl. Dust storms ravaged the Nation's farmland, stripping away millions of tons
of topsoil.
- Partnership Approach.
- Non-Regulatory.

WHAT IS EWP?

- Emergency Watershed Protection Program.
- Provides Federal assistance through Public Sponsors.
- Relieves imminent hazards to life and property from flooding or soil erosion left as a result of a disaster event.
- Typical Disaster Events include: fire, flood, hurricane and drought.
- The purchase of flood easements from individuals is also available on a voluntary basis.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Disaster causes damage to a watershed, streambank or levee which results in an imminent threat to life and property.
- Project restores watersheds or protects property to reduce the threat to life and property to pre-disaster conditions.
- There must be a local unit of government willing to sponsor the project and provide landrights, permits, local cost share and O&M.

USDA

NRCS

WHAT ARE TYPICAL MEASURES?

- Non-drought:
  - Streambank Protection,
  - Levee Repair,
  - Sediment/Debris removal from creeks to restore stream to pre-flood capacity,
  - Etc.

- For drought:
  - Critical area seeding and vegetation establishment
  - Tackifier on dirt/gravel maintenance roads to reduce water use for dust control
  - Possibly silt fences for safety near roads or to protect homes or other structures from silt deposition
  - Anything that is feasible and in keeping with practice standards which helps to keep soil in place.

USDA

NRCS

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS OF EWP?

- Cannot be used to solve pre-existing problems or upgrade the level of protection.
- Cannot be used to perform operation and maintenance work (i.e. sediment removal from debris basins).
- Cannot repair private or public transportation facilities or utilities, or drill irrigation wells.

WHAT IS THE TYPICAL EWP TIMELINE?

- Emergency situation requires prompt response.
- Requests for funding within 60 days of disaster.
- Exigency work. Must be completed within 10 days after funding is committed.

USDA

NRCS

WHAT ARE SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS + RESPONSIBILITIES?

- ELIGIBILITY
  - Local Units or subdivisions of State, City or County Government.
  - Native American Tribes or Tribal Organizations.
- Must have legal authority to acquire necessary land rights, permits for work.
- RESPONSIBILITIES
  - Provide 25% local cost share of <u>construction</u> cost in cash or in-kind services.
  - Acquire Land Rights and Permits.
  - Responsible for Operation and Maintenance as needed.

USDA

NRCS

HOW TO GET STARTED?

1. Sponsor contacts local NRCS District Conservationist after disaster (www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov).
2. Sponsor submits letter of request to NRCS State Conservationist.
3. NRCS & Sponsor prepares DSR to determine eligibility.
4. Request funding and approve Cooperative Agreement.
5. Begin preparation of design and contract documents.
6. Award contract and certify completion of work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov

Or contact your local NRCS Office

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.