



United States Department of Agriculture



USDA-NRCS Watershed Programs ICWP/NWSA Roundtable Meeting Washington, DC



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NRCS Watershed Programs



1. **Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO)**
2. **Watershed Rehabilitation Program (REHAB)**
3. **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)**



Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Purpose

To provide state, local and American Indian tribal governments vital options to protect watersheds and vital infrastructure, benefiting communities in every state and territory in the nation



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Overview

- Public Law 83-566, Public Law 78-534
 - NRCS cooperates with local Sponsors
 - Sponsors carry out, operate, and maintain projects
 - NRCS provides technical, financial, and credit assistance

Statistics

- Over 2,000 watershed projects
- Over 11,840 watershed dams
- \$2.2 billion in average annual benefits nationwide



Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Program Benefits

- Urban and Rural communities
- Agricultural, Environmental, and Social benefits
 - Flood Prevention
 - Watershed Protection
 - Public Recreation
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Agricultural Water Management
 - Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
 - Water Quality Management
 - Watershed Structure Rehabilitation



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Eligibility

- Public Sponsorship
- Watershed Projects up to 250,000 acres
- Max total capacity of 25,000 acre-feet
- 20% of benefits must be agriculture related
- Authorized NRCS watershed plan EA/EIS



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Program Outline

- Sponsors request NRCS assistance to:
 1. Request plan authorization
 2. Carryout existing authorized plan
 3. Prepare NRCS watershed Plan-EA/EIS
- NRCS assists sponsor with project feasibility report and preliminary investigation
- Project sponsors carry out and fund specific parts of the Watershed Plan
- NRCS provides financial and technical assistance
 - Planning, Design, Construction



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Fiscal Year 2017

- \$150 million in NRCS funds
 - Planning
 - Design
 - Construction
- 20 states with 48 projects
- First Funding in 7 years



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Fiscal Year 2018

- \$150 million in NRCS funds
 - Planning
 - Design
 - Construction
- 16 states with 47 projects



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Fiscal Year 2019

- \$150 million in new discretionary funds
- \$50 million in mandatory funding from 2018 Farm Bill



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

Cost Share

Federal Cost Share by Purpose		
Purpose	Engineering	Construction
Flood Prevention	100%	100%
Watershed Protection	100%	Varies
Fish/Wildlife/Public Recreation	100%	Up to 50%
Agricultural Water Management	Up to 100%	Up to 75%
M&I Water Supply	0%	Up to 50%
Water Quality Management	Up to 100%	Varies
Rehabilitation	Up to 100%	Up to 100%



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Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

WFPO Funding by Year	
Fiscal Year	Program Funding
2000	\$99 M
2001	\$99 M
2002	\$106 M
2003	\$109 M
2004	\$86 M
2005	\$74 M
2006	\$75 M
2007	\$0 M
2008	\$29 M
2009	\$24 M
(ARRA) 2009	\$145 M
2010	\$30 M
2017	\$150 M
2018	\$150 M
2019	\$200 M
Total	\$1,376 M



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Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Purpose

Provides technical and financial assistance to rehabilitate and extend service life of dams originally constructed with assistance of NRCS Watershed Programs



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Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Overview

- Authorized by Public law 83-566
- 11,840 dams in 1,271 watersheds since 1948
- Aging NRCS dams nearing end of service life
 - Watershed development
 - Land use changes
 - Sediment Accumulation
 - Structural Deterioration



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Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Program Benefits

- 47 million people protected
- Dam Rehabilitation Purposes
 - Water Supply
 - Sediment and Erosion control
 - Public Safety
 - Flood Protection
 - Recreation
 - Wildlife Habitat



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Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Eligibility

- Originally constructed through a NRCS Watershed Program
 - PL 83-566
 - PL 78-534
 - Pilot Watershed Program
 - Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
- Priority given to high risk dams
- NRCS provides assessment, planning, design, and implementation assistance
 - 65% total rehabilitation cost
 - Not to exceed 100% construction costs



Watershed Rehabilitation Program

Program Outline

- Local Sponsor requests NRCS assistance
- Dam assessment
- Planning Phase
- Design Phase
- Construction Phase



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Watershed Rehabilitation Program



Rehab Funding by Year	
Fiscal Year	Program Funding
2000	\$8 M
2001	\$8 M
2002	\$10 M
2003	\$30 M
2004	\$30 M
2005	\$28 M
2006	\$32 M
2007	\$31 M
2008	\$20 M
2009	\$35 M
2010	\$83 M
2011	\$17 M
2012	\$15 M
2013	\$14 M
2014	\$262 M
2015	\$83 M
2016	\$12 M
2017	\$21 M
2018	\$12 M
2019	\$10 M
Total	\$761 M



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Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Purpose

To provide emergency repair and restoration recovery assistance when sudden watershed impairments occur that creates an imminent threat to life or property



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Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Overview

- Provide local communities assistance to recover from natural disasters such as:
 - Floods
 - Fire
 - Drought
 - Windstorms
 - Earthquakes
- Must reduce threats to life or property
- Must be economically, environmentally, and socially defensible
- Exigency vs Emergency
- Recovery and Flood Plain easements



Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Eligibility

- Private entities may only receive EWP recovery assistance through an eligible project sponsor such as:
 - State Governments
 - Cities
 - Towns
 - Counties/Parishes
 - Municipal Authorities
 - Native American Tribes and Tribal organizations
- Eligible Lands
 - Private land
 - Non-Federal public land
 - Federal lands on Non-Federal right-of-way



Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Sponsor Responsibilities

- Participate on damage survey assessment teams
- Secure land rights for repair work
- Obtaining all permits
- Local cost share
- Administer local contracts
- Necessary operations and maintenance



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Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Program Outline

- Natural Disaster occurs
- NRCS conducts a rapid survey damage assessment
- Sponsor submits written application for assistance to State Conservationist
- Determine exigencies vs emergencies
- Damage Survey Report (DSR)
 - Completed/Approved
- NRCS provides financial and technical assistance



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Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Funding

- Standard Cost Share (75/25)
- Limited Resource Cost Share (90/10)
 - Housing values <75% state average
 - Per capita income <75% of state average
 - Unemployment twice the US average

EWPP Funding by Year	
Fiscal Year	Program Funding
2006	\$306 M
2007	\$10 M
2008	\$490 M
2009-2011	\$0 M
2012	\$216 M
2013	\$235 M
2014	\$0 M
2015	\$79 M
2016	\$157 M
2017	\$103 M
2018	\$541 M
Total	\$2,137 M



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Watershed Programs Mission



To further watershed conservation, protection, and rehabilitation programs through project cooperation of federal and local governments across the nation



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THANK YOU!



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