

# NRCS Flood Assistance

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**United States Department of Agriculture**

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# Emergency Watershed Program

- EWP is USDA's primary method of providing financial and technical assistance for repairing measures damaged by floods and other natural occurrences.
- Typical repairs include:
  - levee repair
  - logjam removal
  - streambank stabilization near roads, bridges and buildings
  - sediment removal from drainage ditches

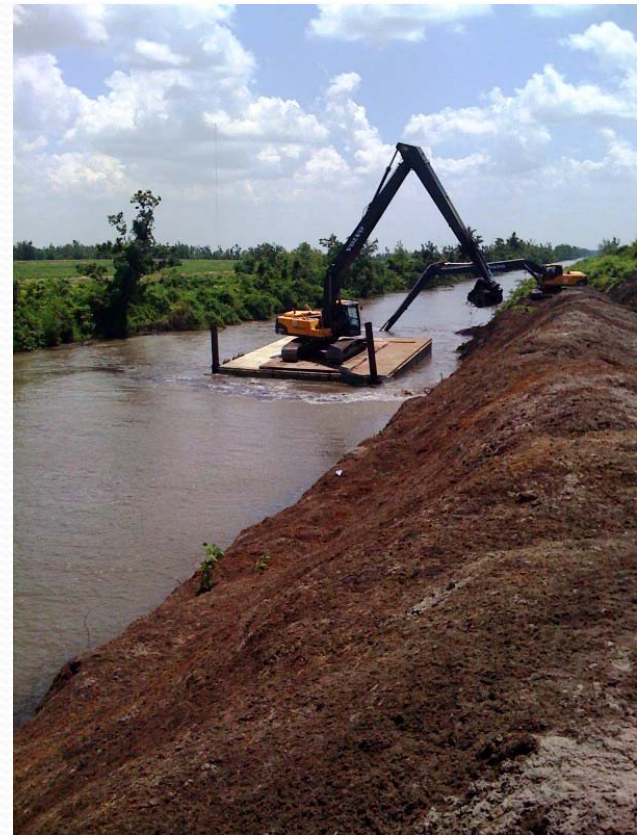
# EWP Cost-Share Rates

- Federal funds may cover up to 75 percent of the construction costs for most restoration measures.
- Projects range in size from small ditches to very large.



# EWP Projects Must Have a Local Sponsor

- Any legal subdivision of state government or a state agency
- Cities
- Counties
- Levee Districts
- Drainage Districts



# EWP Sponsor Requirements

- Have a legal interest in or responsibility for the areas threatened by watershed impairment
- Capable of obtaining the necessary land rights and required permits
- Capable of carrying out Operations and Management
- Administer contract
- Have power of eminent domain



# EWP Eligible Measures

- Must be economically, socially, and environmentally defensible and technically sound
- Are limited to only measures necessary to reduce threats to a stable condition and to the prior event condition



# EWP following flood of 2011 funding released Jan. 18, 2012

- MO            \$35.3M
  - BPNM    \$9.4M
  - Depth of sediment dependent on orientation to the flow; 4-8 feet
- AR            \$5.4
- KY            \$1.7
- IL            \$0
- LA            \$0
- MS            \$3.0
- TN            \$1.3

# EWP – 2008 Flood in SE Missouri

- NRCS received requests for projects totaling \$69 million.
- More than 2,000 miles of ditches and channels were cleaned out.
- BPNM – 140 miles; sediment depths 2-3 feet



# Wetlands Reserve Program

- WRP provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore, protect and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring land from agricultural production.

# WRP

## Wetland Benefits:

- Provide habitat for fish and wildlife
- Improve water quality
- Reduce flooding
- Recharge groundwater
- Protect biological diversity
- Provide educational, scientific and recreational opportunities

# WRP Eligibility Requirements

- Farm Bill rules apply
  - Federal income limits
  - Seven-year ownership
  - Must be hydric soils

# WRP Enrollment Options

- **Permanent easement** – USDA pays 100 percent of easement value and up to 100 percent of restoration costs
- **30-year easement** – USDA pays up to 75 percent of easement value and up to 75 percent of restoration costs
- **Restoration cost-share agreement** – USDA pays up to 75 percent of the restoration costs; no easement on enrolled acres

# WRP Acreage

- Statewide – 135,000 acres, 918 easements
- Eight Bootheel counties
  - 141 easements
  - 30,000 acres (all flooded)
  - 22 percent of statewide WRP acres





# 2012 WRP enrollment goals - acres

- Nationally 185,000
- Arkansas 5,652
- Illinois 1,447
- Kentucky 1,400
- Louisiana 16,799
- Mississippi 7,073
- Missouri 4,524

# WRP acreage by state

- Nationally 2,125,000
- Arkansas 198,265
- Illinois 72,427
- Kentucky 18,237
- Louisiana 229,420
- Mississippi 154,235
- Missouri 135,000

# EWP Floodplain Easements

- Amendment to EWP to provide for purchase of floodplain easements as an emergency measure.
  - Expand the floodplain
  - Reduce long-term federal disaster assistance
  - Safeguard lives and property
  - Eligible for floodplain lands impaired within the last 12 months or with history of repeated flooding (at least two times within past 10 years).
  - Not Farm Bill – No AGI, hydric soils criteria
  - No funding

# EWP Floodplain Easement

- Easement provides NRCS authority to restore and enhance floodplain's functions and values.
- NRCS may pay up to 100 percent of the restoration costs.
- NRCS may pay up to 75 percent of the cost of removing buildings when appropriate.
- Landowners retain rights
  - Control of public access
  - Undeveloped recreational use of land

# Emergency Conservation Program

- Farm Service Agency administers program
  - FSA provides emergency funding for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters.
  - NRCS provides technical assistance to help landowners implement approved emergency conservation practices.
    - 2011 funding
    - Cape Girardeau \$0.2
    - Mississippi \$3.4
    - New Madrid \$0.55
    - Scott \$0.2



# For More Information

[www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov)

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