

Presentation

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Bruce Wells, Water Resources Planning Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Services Salina. Kansas Dam Safety Conference, 15 February 2011, Topeka, KS

The Natural Resources Conservation Services administers the Emergency Watershed Program. It provides funding for life and property-threatening watershed problems caused by a natural disaster and needing immediate repair.

This funding is not for ongoing problems or normal operation and maintenance.

Each proposed project needs a sponsor. These sponsors can be a legal subdivision of a state government (cities, counties, conservation districts, watershed districts) or Native American tribe/tribal organization.

Sponsors should have legal interest in or responsibility for the threatened watershed impairment and lack sufficient funds to address the emergency. If the project is NRCS-approved,



the sponsor has to provide 25% cost share (cash or payment in the form of goods and services). They also have to acquire necessary land rights and permits as well as be capable of carrying out operation and maintenance responsibilities.

Eligible projects include

- Debris removal from stream channels to restore stream-flow capacity
- Blockages above bridges
- Debris cleaning along a stretch of stream channel caused by tornado, streambank stabilization, or drainage ditch repair (including sediment removal)
- Watershed dam repair (NRCS-assisted dams only)
- Damaged levee/dike repair

For example, following the excessive rain in June 2007, NRCS provided funding to repair these watershed dams: Upper Verdigris, Big Caney, Middle Caney, Twin Caney, Bee Creek, Elk River, Duck Creek, Little Walnut Hickory, Rock Creek, and Timber Creek.

In 2010, this program provided funding for 19 auxiliary spillway repairs, two debris removal projects, and six streambank stabilizations.

For more information, read the NRCS [brochure](#) on the program.

See example below of before-and-after spillway repair funded by this program.

