Emergency Watershed Protection Program

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EWP Overview

- Requires Local Watershed Emergency declaration by NRCS State Conservationist
- Provides financial and technical assistance for
  - Reshaping and protecting eroded stream banks
  - Removing debris from stream channels
  - Correcting damaged or destroyed drainage facilities
  - Establishing vegetative cover on critically eroding lands
  - Repairing levees and structures

Eligibility Criteria

Both **private** and **public** landowners are eligible to apply for assistance. To be eligible, the damages to the landscape must have been incurred during Helene. Repairs must meet the following requirements:

- Provide protection from flooding or soil erosion
- Reduce threats to life and property
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment
- Economically and environmentally defensible

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION



Tropical Storm Fred



Before





After

Budget

Total Estimated Project Budget: $36,991,382 – 207 sites

- Construction Costs (FA): $33,566,382 (100% paid by NRCS)
- Engineering (TA): $3,425,000 (10% construction costs)

* EWP is a reimbursement grant

**Reimbursement is based on actual expenditures not to exceed the amount obligated

Additional Funding Needed

- Estimated Engineering (TA): $3,425,000
  - Once engineering contracts are awarded we will obtain cost estimates
  - We have been invited by NRCS to request additional funding
- Estimated Permitting Fees: $115,000 ($550/site)
  - The State Division of Soil and Water has invited us to apply for these funds



Requested Action

Requesting commissioner's approval to accept a **$36,991,382 Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) grant** to support streambank recovery efforts as a result of the destruction left by Tropical Storm Helene in Buncombe County.