

## EWP Program Key Points

1. EWP requires a **government entity** act as Sponsor.
  - NRCS cannot work directly with landowners.
2. Sponsor must submit a written request for EWP assistance **within 60 days of the watershed (rainfall/flood) event.**
  - Requesting assistance only obligates the potential Sponsor with providing an individual to take us to sites that were damaged by the event.
  - I always recommend that a potential Sponsor submit a request for EWP assistance should they have damage along streams following a rainfall event.
3. **EWP cannot reimburse for work done prior to an agreement being in place.**
4. EWP projects must be environmentally and economically defensible.
  - NRCS cannot spend more on the protection measure than value of what is being protected.
5. EWP is a grant program.
  - EWP Agreement is between NRCS and Sponsor.
  - NRCS does not enter into an agreement until we receive EWP funds to do work.
  - Typically cost share is 75% USDA, 25% Sponsor.
    - Sponsor cost share could exceed 25% if project cost exceed estimate/bid and NRCS cannot obtain additional funds.
  - Agreement states Sponsor is responsible for cost share and operation and maintenance (O&M) for the life of the project.
  - Sponsors typically pass cost share and O&M requirements to landowners using.
    - Formal documents filed with Town Clerk.
    - Informal method, verbal, cashier's check, etc.
    - O&M streambank practice life is 10 years.
    - From NRCS perspective, Sponsor is still responsible for both cost share and O&M.
6. EWP program is for damage caused by latest event. Sites with known history of problems will not be eligible.
7. EWP is a protection program. It cannot repair or replace damaged or destroyed property. Some examples of property are:
  - Buildings      ○ Roads
  - Culverts      ○ Septic Systems
  - Bridges      ○ Wells
  - Driveways
8. EWP isn't a program to repair streambank damage when a structure isn't threatened. It is to protect structures that could be damaged should another event occur.

**Did the event significantly increase the risk to what is threatened?**

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I use the following examples to help form a perspective of what may or may not be eligible.

- Buildings
  - Will another watershed event damage the structure?
    - If the streambank was 25 feet from the building before the event and it is now 20 feet from the building it most likely will not be eligible.
    - If the streambank was 25 feet from the building before the event and it is now 10 feet from the building it has a good chance of meeting the first eligibility criteria.
    - If the streambank was 5 feet from the building before the event and it is now 4 feet from the building it may not be eligible.
  - Some of the additional factors considered in the initial assessment are:
    - Is the bank material highly erodible?
    - Is the main flow of the stream directed at the eroded bank?
    - Is debris directing flow at the eroded bank?
    - Did the channel scour in the area of the eroded bank?
- Roads
  - If road receives Federal Aid it is not eligible.
  - If damage is due to runoff in ditches/overland flow then it is not eligible.
  - Is road surface damaged (can't drive on entire road) then it is not eligible.
  - Is bank on stream side of road damage but road is still usable then it may be eligible.