

**United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Emergency Watershed Protection Program**

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)

There are two assistance options available:

1. **Emergency Watershed Protection Program Recovery (EWP)**
 - Can be used to protect properties where an imminent threat exists.
 - Must work with a Sponsor.
2. **Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easement (EWPP – FPE)**
 - Easement program which can remove buildings from the floodplain and do floodplain restoration.
 - NRCS can work directly with farmers with this program. Others need a Sponsor.

EWP Recovery Sponsor

The EWP program requires that NRCS work with a Sponsor which is a unit of government. In Vermont, this has historically been the local municipalities.

- NRCS **cannot** work directly with private property owners under this program.

EWP Recovery Cost Share Rates

The EWP program can provide Financial Assistance (FA) and Technical Assistance (TA) funds for the implementation of eligible EWP projects.

- FA Reimbursement Cost Share Rate is typically 75% NRCS, 25% Sponsor
- TA Reimbursement Cost Share is 100%
 - Agreement will state that the TA funds provided may not cover all expenses and Sponsor is responsible for the balance.

In Vermont, Sponsors typically require private property owners cover the sponsor share and operation and maintenance requirements of the project installed on their land.

EWP Recovery Program Eligibility

1. The damage must be from a recent watershed event.
 - Sponsor request for EWP Assistance must be received within **60 days** of the watershed event which caused the damage.
2. There must be an imminent threat to property.
 - **Property** is defined as an **artificial structure permanently affixed to the land**.
 - **Land alone**, including farmland, is **not** eligible for EWP assistance.
 - **Imminent threat** means the property, as defined by the program, will be damaged or destroyed if another watershed event occurs if a repair is not installed.
 - Normal rainstorms are not considered watershed events.
3. The cost of the EWP repair cannot exceed the value of the property being protected.

As the program name implies, the Emergency Watershed **Protection** Program can assist to protect property where a watershed event caused an imminent threat to the property. The program **cannot** repair or rebuild damaged or destroyed property.

- Damage inside of and to buildings is **not** eligible for EWP assistance.
- Damaged or washed-out roads, driveways, utilities are **not** eligible for EWP assistance.
- Damaged or destroyed culverts and bridges are **not** eligible for EWP assistance.