

**For a site to be eligible for EWP program assistance, all eighty (8) of these questions must be answered YES.**

1. Damage was the result of the March “Bomb / Cyclone” (e.g. damage to structures residential or commercial, infrastructure, etc.)?
2. Recovery measures would be for runoff retardation or soil erosion prevention? (e.g. erosion damage to canal banks, roads, sediment blocking drainage, etc.; potential for increased erosion damages due to lack of groundcover).
3. Threat to life and/or property? (i.e.: property is defined as public infrastructure)
4. Event caused a sudden impairment to the watershed? (i.e. A sudden watershed impairment is caused by a natural disaster and is widespread over a watershed area. The damage renders the streams, creeks, and drainage ways incapable of their normal function and threatens life or property.)
5. Imminent threat was created by this event?
6. For structural repairs, the site has not been repaired twice using EWP funds within the last ten years?
7. Economic, environmental, and social documentation adequate to warrant action?
8. Proposed action technically sound?

#### **ADDITIONAL EWP PROGRAM CLARIFICATIONS:**

##### **The following are damages that are not eligible for EWP assistance:**

- Damage that would be expected from a “normal” storm event. This is considered routine operation and maintenance.
- **Damage that existed before the disaster event.**
- Repair of the actual infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges, etc.).
- Washed-out road fills, road surfaces, bridges, culverts, utilities, and similar structures.
- **Erosion that only threatens farmland, woodland, or pastureland.**
- Damage to beaches, dunes, or shorelines.
- **Damage to structures installed by other federal agencies, such as canals and drainage channels built by the USACE.**

##### **Can a site be fixed that has been an operation and maintenance nightmare for years prior to the storm event?**

Answer: No, EWP funds are not to be used to fix pre-existing problems unless the damage due to the storm event is significantly greater than the pre-existing condition of the site. NRCS will assess the site and determine if damage is due to lack of O&M or if it is due to a specific storm event. The watershed impairment must have occurred in the event associated with the request for assistance. The purpose of the EWP program is to fix impairments related to disasters and not to provide maintenance for infrastructure.

##### **Can EWP funds be used to construct a new channel to provide the drainage necessary for protection from flooding that is creating a hazard to life and property?**

Answer: No, EWP funds cannot be used to construct a new channel, realign a channel, or do work that increases the pre-disaster capacity of a channel.