United States Department of Agriculture

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

DISASTER ASSISTANCE
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

Overview

The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides payments to eligible owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land in order to carry out emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster.

How to Apply

EFRP enrollment is administered by FSA state and county committees and county offices. Producers should inquire with their local FSA county office regarding EFRP enrollment periods and eligibility.

How it Works

FSA county committees determine land eligibility using on-site damage inspections that assess the type and extent of damage. To be eligible for EFRP, NIPF land must:

- Have existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster occurred and is suitable for growing trees); and
- Be owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity.

Cost-Share Payments

Cost-share payments are:

- Up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved restoration practices; and
- Limited to $500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster.

Eligible Forest Restoration Practices

To restore NIPF, EFRP participants may implement emergency forest restoration practices, such as:

- Debris removal, such as down or damaged trees, in order to establish a new stand or provide for natural regeneration;
- Site preparation, planting materials, and labor to replant forest stand;
- Restoration of forestland roads, fire lanes, fuel breaks, or erosion control structures;
- Fencing, tree shelters, and tree tubes to protect trees from wildlife damage; and
- Wildlife enhancement to provide cover openings and wildlife habitat.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about FSA disaster programs, visit **http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov** or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit **http://offices.usda.gov**.

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Farm Service Agency

Environmental Reviews

Fact Sheet
June 2021

Before USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can assist you with a project, we must conduct an environmental compliance review. The review considers the environmental effects of any upcoming projects and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and other laws.

Kinds of Projects Requiring Environmental Reviews

Environmental reviews are required for all USDA program eligibility, including disaster assistance projects. Projects requiring an environmental review may include things like constructing or repairing farm and ranch related buildings and infrastructures such as barns, fences, wells, and waste and crop storage facilities. Other projects may involve conservation projects, providing or guaranteeing loans, disaster recovery or even purchasing or expanding operations.

Environmental Reviews:

Are Not Optional

NEPA, ESA, NHPA, and others all require Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed projects before approving Federal program or loan funds.

Protect Natural and Cultural Resources

The environmental review will address natural and cultural resources under federal protection, including:

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Wetlands and Floodplains
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Coastal Barriers and Coastal Zones
- Air and Water Quality
- Cultural and Historic Resources

Take Varying Times to Complete

Many factors influence the time it will take to complete the review -- the complexity of the project, effects on protected resources, and level of environmental review needed. Sharing any related permits, plans, or other documents early in the process will expedite the review.

Your Responsibilities

- Check with FSA before starting any projects.
- Do not begin any project before an environmental review has been completed and the project is approved in writing. Doing so may result in loss of loan or program eligibility.
- Attend a preliminary planning meeting if offered.
- Provide USDA with complete and detailed information and documents.
- Submit applications, permits, and plans early.
- Work cooperatively with regulators and other agencies.
- Applicants may be asked to pay for such items as:
    - Universal Commercial Code (UCC) filings
    - Appraisals
    - Cultural Resource Surveys

How to Get Started

Contact your local USDA Service Center early in your planning process and before you start any project that will use Federal program or loan funds. You can find the telephone number and address of your local service center at farmers.gov/service-locator.

Staff at your local service center may schedule a meeting to start the environmental review process. We will want to know about your plans, including what you're asking FSA to support, as well as the parts of the project you and other parties will fund.

For More Information

Visit your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator, or see fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/environmental-cultural-resource/.

Babbitt
169
Hoyt Lakes
2
Jenkins
Creek Fire
Bassett
15
Camp House Fire
4
53
Munger
Shaw Fire
Silver Creek
61
Lakewood
35
Hermantown
Duluth
Proctor