

DISASTER STREAM DEBRIS REMOVAL: Report to the Joint Select Committee on Storm-Related River Debris/Damage

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Background: Stream Debris Activities for Previous Storms

- 2011: Hurricane Isabel and Spring Tornados
 - Assistance requested from local governments
 - \$850,000 from Division of Water Resources Grants
 - 21 local sponsors
 - 26 projects
- Hurricane Matthew:
 - Total Requests: \$42,031,690
 - \$22.8M allocated for stream debris and related.
 - 55 local sponsors
 - 28 Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 - 11 Drainage Districts
 - 7 County Government
 - 7 Municipalities
 - 2 Non-Profit Organizations
 - \$5.3M Reimbursed to date
 - Feet Planned: 8,171,468
 - Feet Completed: 3,742,989



Priorities:

1. Stream Debris Removal
2. In-Stream Sediment Removal
3. Streambank Stabilization with Vegetation Cover
4. Stream Channel Restoration



Process:

1. Local Sponsors inventory damaged stream segments
2. Request funding when availability announced
3. Division evaluates requests vs. available funds
4. Local sponsors are notified of final allocation by Soil & Water Commission
5. Local sponsor revises request to work on priority stream segments
6. Division develops scope of work and initiate contracts with local sponsors
7. Local sponsors advertise and contract with vendors
8. Local sponsor is responsible for supervision of stream removal activities.
9. Division inspects each completed segment.
10. Local sponsor requests reimbursement for completed segments.
11. Additional funds are prioritized to those sponsors that have completed 1/3 of planned work



Challenges:

- Spawning Season: DMF or WRC may prohibit in-stream work during spawning season for anadromous/migratory fish (may be 3-4 months)
- US Army Corps of Engineer requirements for in-stream work
- Weather – high water levels prevent work because contractors can't see all material that needs removal.
- BEAVERS – local sponsors must hire a trapper if streams have beavers/beaver dams.
- Available contractors for magnitude of work
- Working conditions – contractors often prefer to work in winter when snakes, mosquitos are less prevalent.
- SAFETY
- Lack of dedicated staff by local sponsors
- Need for long-term maintenance funding



Rowland Creek – Beaufort SWCD



Before



After

Swift Creek– Craven SWCD



Before



After

Debris Disposal:



11/26/2018

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Hurricane Florence: Coordination with Federal Funding (USDA, FEMA?)

- \$10M – Non-Federal match for USDA NRCS EWP
 - USDA Program for Watershed Restoration
 - **Eligibility on the basis of a threat to health, life or property**
 - Stream debris removal
 - Sediment removal
 - Streambank stabilization
- **"Not all removal of storm debris or repair of storm damage is eligible for EWP assistance. NRCS may determine on a case-by-case basis that some storm damage or watershed impairments do meet the EWP eligibility requirements."**



EWP – Local Sponsor Responsibilities

- Providing land rights to do repair work;
- Securing necessary permits;
- Accomplish the installation of work;
- Perform any necessary operation and maintenance;
- Furnish the local cost share as a percent of the construction cost of eligible measures covered by the agreement.
- NonFederal Match Requirement:
 - **10%:** Bladen, Duplin, Greene, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Wayne
 - **25%:** Alamance, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Carteret, Chatham, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Dare, Davidson, Granville, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Madison, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pender, Person, Pitt, Polk, Randolph, Rowan, Stanly, Tyrrell, Union, Wilson, Yancey
- *Local sponsors must submit application letter to USDA NRCS by December 31st*



Recommendations

- Clarify that funds appropriated for Hurricane Matthew may also be used to clear and repair streams damaged by Hurricane Florence.
- Consider potential needs in addition to EWP for Florence recovery.
- Consider providing a local match for ongoing maintenance.



Questions?



11/26/2018

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