

For: State and County Offices

Authorization and Funding for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

Section 8203 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246) authorized EFRP. This new program was added to Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, as amended (16 U.S.C. 2201-2206).

EFRP’s purpose is to make payments available to owners of nonindustrial private forest land who are approved for program participation and carry out emergency measures to restore land that is damaged by a natural disaster.

According to the EFRP authorization:

- emergency measures must be necessary to address damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on nonindustrial private forest land and restore forest health and forest-related resources on the land
- damage, if not treated would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land and would materially affect future use of the land
- eligible natural disasters include wildfires, hurricanes or excessive winds, drought, ice storms or blizzards, floods, or other resource-impacting events
- nonindustrial private forest land is rural land that has existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster and is suitable for growing trees); and is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision-making authority over the land
- payments shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the emergency measures carried out by an owner of nonindustrial private forest land.

Note: The statute does not specify that a Presidential or Secretarial Disaster declaration is required for EFRP implementation.

Disposal Date	Distribution
March 1, 2011	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

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1 Overview (Continued)

A Background (Continued)

On July 29, 2010, the President signed a supplemental appropriations act (Pub. L. 111-212) which provided \$18 million for implementation of EFRP for expenses resulting from natural disasters that occurred on or after January 1, 2010. The act also facilitates implementing EFRP.

B EFRP Guidance

Directives for EFRP will be issued under the new series "EFRP". Subsequent EFRP notices and a handbook will be issued to address policy, procedure, automated processes, and training to support EFRP.

Teleconferences will be scheduled with State Offices on implementing EFRP and to address questions.

C Purpose

This notice:

- provides background on EFRP
- requests that County Offices estimate potential EFRP funding needs.

2 Action

A County Office Action

Using the information in subparagraph 1 A, County Offices shall provide to the State Office by **COB, Tuesday, August 17, 2010**, an estimate of the potential funding necessary in their county to restore nonindustrial private forest land impacted by natural disasters that have occurred since January 1, 2010, assuming cost share rates similar to ECP.

Important: These estimates are for planning purposes only and do **not** constitute a request for funds or program implementation. Instructions for submitting official requests for EFRP implementation and funding will be provided in a future notice.

B State Office Action

State Offices must review the provisions of this notice, compile a summary of the potential funding needs provided by County Offices according to subparagraph A and provide the summary to ECP-PM by **COB, Thursday, August 19, 2010**.

Note: A negative report is required.

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3 Contact

A State Offices

If there are questions about this notice, State Offices shall contact Katina Hanson, ECP-Program Manager (PM), by either of the following:

- e-mail to **katina.hanson@wdc.usda.gov**
- telephone at 202-720-0062.

B County Offices

If there are questions about this notice, County Offices shall contact the State Office.