



## Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE)

### *For Private Landowners & State or Local Units of Government*

#### **Overview**

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easement (EWPP-FPE) is a voluntary program established to: (1) acquire new floodplain easements on eligible lands, (2) restore their floodplain functions and values to natural conditions to the greatest extent practicable, and (3) help stimulate the economy.

The EWPP-FPE was authorized as part of The American Recovery and Re-investment Act (ARRA). Congress authorized \$145 million for the purchase and restoration of floodplain easements. The nationwide signup will be from March 9 through April 10, 2009.

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Mississippi will offer EWPP-FPE in all 82 counties. The goal of NRCS is to have these funds expended within 12 to 18 months.

#### **Benefits**

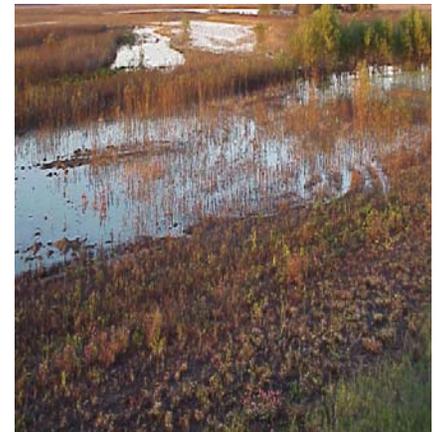
Restoration on floodplain easements will include all necessary conservation practices, measures and activities required to restore the floodplain functions and values to the natural conditions to the greatest extent practicable. Restoration of wetlands will be restricted to the wetland type(s) that were present in the natural conditions.



#### **Enrollment Options**

The program offers only one enrollment option - a permanent easement for which landowners receive 100 percent of the actual cost of installing restoration approved conservation practices and may receive the lowest of:

- (1) an area-wide market analysis or survey;
- (2) the geographical area rate cap; or
- (3) the offer made by the landowner.



#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for enrollment:

- (1) land must be private land or owned by state or local government;
- (2) land must have been damaged by flooding at least twice within the previous 10 years or at least once in the last 12 months; or
- (3) be other lands within the floodplain that are functionally dependent on acres eligible or that would improve the practical management of the easement. (No more than one acre of other land may be enrolled for each acre of land eligible.)

#### **For More Information**

If you need more information about EWPP-FPE, please contact your local USDA-NRCS Service Center listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture or your local conservation district. Information is available on the Internet at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs> or <http://www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>