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TYPES OF LANDS THAT QUALIFY
Forestland

TYPE OF PROGRAM
Natural disaster restoration

MONETARY BENEFIT
Direct payment

Emergency Forest Restoration Program

The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) is a voluntary program that provides eligible landowners of non-industrial private forestland with cost-share assistance for restoring land affected by a natural disaster. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers this program.

Wildlife Mississippi conceptualized this program and worked with the American Forest Foundation and the U.S. Congress to make it law. This program is available for restoration and does not assist in the loss of forest products. It is strictly for the restoration of the land.

HOW IT WORKS

The EFRP is a cost-share program at the rate of 75% of the cost of implementation of practices. County committees can approve payments up to $50,000, and state committees can approve $50,000 to $100,000. Anything over $100,000 would require national approval, and no payment over $500,000 will be approved per landowner for each natural disaster.

Restoration practices eligible for cost-share assistance may include

- site preparation, planting materials, and labor for reestablishing forest systems,
- debris removal for re-establishment or regeneration,
- restoration of forestland roads and fire breaks,
- fencing or exclusion structures for the protection of trees from wildlife damage, and

- wildlife enhancements to provide openings and improve wildlife habitat.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible, land must be owned by any non-industrial private individual, corporation, group, association, or other entity. As this program focuses solely on restoration, eligible lands must have previously had tree cover and remain suitable for tree growth.

HOW TO APPLY

Since this program is available for emergency assistance, sign-up periods are not continual, and only certain counties may be eligible for assistance through the EFRP. Landowners with significant damage should contact their local USDA service center and the FSA to determine if their county is eligible for participation in the EFRP.

EFRP EXAMPLE

A landowner has 100 acres of eligible bottomland hardwoods they are reforesting after a EF-3 tornado hit their stand of bottomland hardwoods along the Leaf River in central Mississippi. The EFRP can be utilized to pay for 75% of the restoration cost.

Costs

The average clean-up, site preparation, and restoration cost for bottomland hardwoods is $655/acre.

Sample Calculation

Clean-up, Site Preparation, Tree Seedlings, and Tree Planting: $655/Acre = $65,500

EFRP (Pays 75% of costs) = $49,125

Landowner (Pays 25% of costs) = $16,375

HOW ARE EFRP PAYMENTS TAXED?

EFRP payments are taxed at the ordinary income rate; however, if the expenses equal or exceed the revenue from the program, no tax is paid.

The Mississippi Land Trust works with willing private landowners and government agencies to protect fish and wildlife habitat in Mississippi.

P.O. Box 23 | Stoneville, MS 38776
662.820.9774 | www.misslandtrust.org

The Mississippi River Trust works with willing private landowners and government agencies to protect fish and wildlife habitat in the Lower Mississippi River region.

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Wildlife Mississippi works with willing private landowners and government agencies to conserve fish and wildlife habitat in Mississippi.

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