

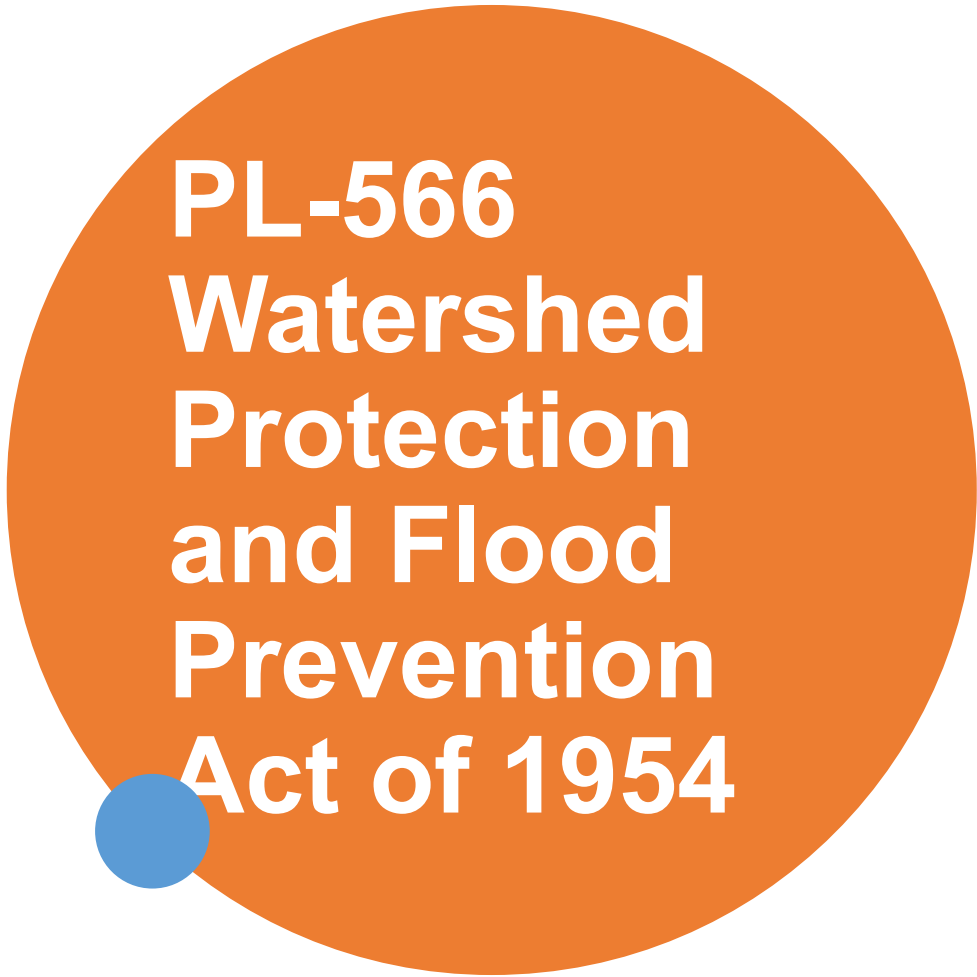


NRCS Helps Rhode Island with Funding, Technical Assistance and Finding Solutions for the Future as Climate Change Looms


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Natural
Resources
Conservation
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**PL-566
Watershed
Protection
and Flood
Prevention
Act of 1954**



Authorizes the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to help local organizations and units of government plan and implement watershed projects.

PL-566 watershed projects are locally led to solve natural and human resource problems in watersheds.

PL-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954

Provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and Tribal organizations to help plan and implement authorized watershed projects for the purpose of:

- Flood Prevention
 - Watershed Protection
 - Public Recreation
 - Public Fish and Wildlife
 - Agricultural Water Management
 - Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
 - Water Quality Management
- 

PL-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 and PL-516

Watershed & Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO):

provides for cooperation between the Federal government and the States and their political subdivisions to address resource concerns due to erosion, floodwater, and sediment and provide for improved utilization of the land and water resources

Watershed Rehabilitation Program (REHAB):

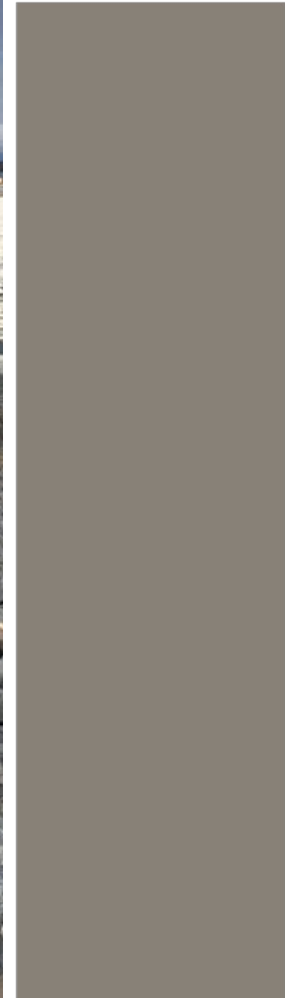
Provides technical and financial assistance to rehabilitate and extend service life of dams originally constructed with assistance of NRCS Watershed Programs – NRCS did not assist with the construction of any dams in Rhode Island.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program:

Provides technical and financial assistance to local disaster areas. EWP is a federal emergency recovery program, helps local communities recover after a natural disaster strikes.

Watershed Funding Since 2017

Funding in the Millions		
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>WFPO</u>	<u>REHAB</u>
2017	\$150	\$21
2018	\$150	\$12
2019	\$200	\$10
2020	\$225	\$10
2021	\$225	\$10
2022	\$150	\$1
2022 (IIJA)	\$500	\$118
2023	\$125	\$2
Total	\$1,725 M	\$184 M





Public Sponsorship



Watershed Projects up to 250,000* acres



Max total capacity of 25,000 acre-feet



20% of benefits must be agriculture/rural related



Implementation must follow an Authorized NRCS watershed plan EA/EIS

**Several recent appropriations have waived this requirement for projects that have a purpose other than flood prevention*



Statutory Requirements
(What Can and Cannot Be Done)

Eligible Sponsors

- Eligible Sponsors
- Local Units or Subdivisions of State Government
- State Government (water management districts, drainage districts, etc.)
- Other Governmental Entities
- Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations


Program Process/Timelines:

Generally Funded in Phases

Preliminary Investigation Findings Report (PIFR) Phase: to determine if the project has any insurmountable challenges and is compatible with the PL-566 program. Up to 12 months to complete



Planning Phase: watershed plan and environmental document, alternative identified . Up to 18 months to complete



Design Phase: Alternative(s) designed Up to 24 months to complete



Contruction/Implementation Phase. 2-5 years to complete

How Do You Start?

Phase	What's Needed to Request Funds
PIFR	Letter from Sponsor, STC Request letter to Deputy Chief of Programs.
Planning	Approved PIFR.
Design	Watershed Plan EA/EIS has been Authorized by the Chief of NRCS.
Construction	Land rights and all permits obtained, designed has been approved by the SCE (at least 90%).

NRCS state staff can choose to complete needed work via:

- Agreement with the sponsor
 - *Note: PIFRs cannot be completed by sponsor or entity with a financial interest in the outcome of the PIFR.*
- National IDIQ Contract
- State NRCS Staff

**Program
Purposes:**

Purpose and Cost Share		
Purpose	Engineering	Construction
Flood Prevention	100%	100%
Watershed Protection	100%	Varies
Fish/Wildlife/Public Recreation	100%	Up to 50%
Agricultural Water Management	Up to 100%	Up to 75%
M&I Water Supply	0%	Up to 50%
Water Quality Management	Up to 100%	Varies

Current Open Projects In Rhode Island



Pocasset River Watershed – Cranston and Johnston – currently in the Design Phase (Approx \$70M for implementation phase) focusing on Flood Prevention and Watershed Protection.



Woonasquatucket River Watershed - Providence County - currently in the Planning Phase focusing on Flood Prevention and Watershed Protection.



Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers Watershed – Southern RI and CT -currently in the Planning Phase focusing on Flood Prevention and Watershed Protection.

Current Open Projects In Rhode Island

Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report

- Deep Pond and School House Pond Watershed – Tribal in Washington County
- Winnapaug and Salt Ponds Watershed – Tribal in Washington County
- Palmer River Watershed in Warren
- Pawtuxet River Watershed
- Paradise Brook and Maidford River Watershed
- Bailey Brook Watershed Middletown
- Runnin's River Watershed East Providence
- Blackstone River Watershed

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Authorized in 1950

Drought added in 1978

Floodplain Easements added in 1996

Activation of the EWP Program

- Presidential Declaration
- NRCS State Conservationist Declaration
- Letter of request from Sponsor

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- EWP - no annual appropriation
- Funded by Congressional Supplemental
- Provides Financial (FA) & Technical Assistance (TA) Funds

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Eligibility Criteria

- Damage was a result of a natural disaster?
- Recovery measures are for runoff retardation or soil erosion prevention?
- Threat to life and/or property?
- Event caused a sudden impairment in the watershed?
- Imminent threat was created by this event?
- Structural repairs, not repaired twice within ten years?
- Economically defensible?

Must answer “Yes” to all these questions!

Current Open EWP Projects In Rhode Island



East Providence



Middletown.



Narragansett

Questions?

Contact Information

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