

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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March 13, 2009

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 210-9-2

SUBJECT: EWP FLOODPLAIN (AND FLOOD RISK) EASEMENTS

TO: All Employees

Purpose: To announce particulars of the ongoing EWP Floodplain Easements (FPE) sign-up.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2009

Per the Secretary of Agriculture's announcement and draft national guidance (attached), NRCS is accepting applications for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program Flood Plain Easement component from now until March 27, 2009. This bulletin is formal notification of the sign-up and also includes a **sample news release** for field office use in the local media. Important clarifications received since the previously transmitted Circular II include:

Ranking/ Funding

Ranking scores will be developed largely based on national criteria, as previously stated. However, ranking of individual parcels will be done at the state level, so there is a fair chance that if New Mexico has a substantial number of applications, we will be able to fund at least one (national allocation process is likely to include funding proportional to each state's request of total funds available).

Eligible Lands

Include not only areas flooded twice in the past 12 months, or once in the last year, **but also areas of potential flooding below NRCS or non-NRCS sponsored dams.** Third party documentation of eligibility under one of these criteria will be a considered a part of the application process, and must be obtained prior to the close of the application period. Flooding may be documented via county or FSA records. Flood potential should be documented in the dam emergency action plan, local flood commissioner data or other reliable source, and should include the magnitude of the storm expected to flood an applicant's property or breach the upstream structure. Please contact the State Office for additional clarification if none of these data sources are available.

(MORE)

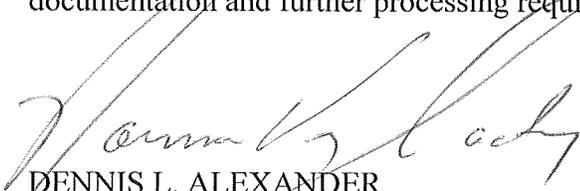
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Processing Applications

All applications must be entered into a national database by the end of March. If you receive any applications, please notify Seth Fiedler (seth.fiedler@nm.usda.gov) immediately for assistance in documentation and further processing requirements.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis L. Alexander".

DENNIS L. ALEXANDER
State Conservationist

Attachments