

News Release

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Lincoln County Sets May 31, 2025, as the Deadline for Landowners Affected by the South Fork and Salt Fire Incident to Apply for Assistance through the USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

ALBUQUERQUE, May 8, 2025 –

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service in New Mexico has been working with local sponsor Lincoln County to provide assistance to landowners affected by the South Fork Fire and/or the Salt Fire of June 17, 2024, through the USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). The Lincoln County Commission has set a **May 31, 2025**, deadline for EWP applications for landowners still seeking assistance with protecting their property from damage done in the South Fork incident.

You can fill out the form at <https://scmr.cd.org/landowner-request-for-assistance-form/>, or contact Laura Doth at 575-446-3973.

More Information

Following natural disasters, the EWP program is available to eligible local sponsors; a legal subdivision of the state, such as a state agency, county, city, town, soil and water conservation district, or an Indian Tribe or a Tribal organization. The program's objectives are to relieve imminent hazards to life and structures/infrastructure caused by floods, fires, storms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program. The USDA NRCS does not provide EWP assistance directly to private property owners with the exception of floodplain easements. All projects undertaken which include public and private properties must have a project sponsor.

EWP is designed for installation of emergency measures to protect lives, structures and infrastructure. Typical activities include providing financial and technical assistance to:

- Remove hazardous debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges
- Stabilize erosion threatening structures and infrastructure

EWP work is not limited to any one set of prescribed measures. A case-by-case investigation of the work is made by NRCS and has been completed for the South Fork incident. To get answers to your questions about EWP in New Mexico, contact David Griego, Resource Conservationist and NRCS New Mexico EWP Manager at (505) 761-4430 or David.Griego@usda.gov.

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