

NRCS Partners with the BLM to Hold a Fire Recovery Program Public Meeting

July 4, 2012, Denver, CO – The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in conjunction with the Bureau and Land Management (BLM) held a joint public meeting to share information about each Agency’s fire recovery programs. The meeting targeted entities and individuals impacted by the Weber Fire. Approximately 75 locals participated where discussions revolved around BLM’s Recovery program and NRCS’s Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) and Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) programs.

“We partnered with the BLM in our efforts to reach out to private landowners on the recovery efforts for the Weber fire because excessive runoff and erosion of the soil is a real possibility after a wildfire,” says Mike Rich, NRCS District Conservationist, Cortez, Colorado. *“And although, the damage assessments are still underway and we currently don’t have an EWP allocation, receiving that funding is a possibility and a result we wanted to get information in the hands of those impacted by this disaster so that they could respond quickly, when and if the time came to take advantage of EWP assistance. We also wanted to share with the participants that even if no EWP allocation is determined, NRCS can provide technical assistance through its CTA program.”*

NRCS’s EWP program is a cost-share program designed to relieve imminent hazard to life and property caused by hurricanes, floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters. The program allows for the installation or repairing of conservation measures that control flooding and prevent soil erosion. Conservation measures can include reseeding the landscape, installing grade stabilizers; sandbag barriers; concrete barrier walls; runoff diversions; log erosion barriers; straw bale dikes; contour wattle, as well as protecting water outlets.

“EWP is just one avenue NRCS offers when assisting private landowners impacted by a natural disaster,” Rich, goes on to say. *“It’s very important to note that all the conservation measures available through the EWP can be installed without utilizing the EWP program and NRCS will provide the technical assistance needed to help landowners who choose that route.”*

For additional information about the NRCS and the Weber Fire recovery efforts, please visit www.co.nrcs.usda.gov

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