

NASCA RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

Date: June 2008

Resolution Sponsor: South Dakota

Title: Updating Emergency Watershed Program

Subject: Disaster Assistance Program for Natural Resources

In the past, natural resource disaster assistance has been inconsistent and unpredictable through the Emergency Watershed Program (EWP). As climate patterns change and natural disasters become more frequent and devastating, it is critical that natural resources assistance be provided in an ongoing and consistent manner. Relief programs must provide assistance to land users with natural resource practice losses resulting from drought, hurricanes, tornados, floods, fire and any other natural disasters.

Action requested to be taken by NASCA:

1. Support permanent disaster assistance based on actual best management practice losses as a result of natural disasters.
2. Seek a permanent funding for natural resources disaster assistance.

Supporting material and/or documentation:

Assumptions

A natural disaster assistance program must:

1. Be equitable to all land users that have implemented Best Management Practices;
2. Targets disaster assistance for re-establishing BMPs to land users by degree of impact;
3. Not be a disincentive to purchasing insurance; and
4. If a land user qualifies, BMPs must be re-established on the same property as the damaged or destroyed BMP.

Qualifications and Limitations for Assistance

The current EWP does not require a declaration of disaster.

Qualifying disaster assistance begins at forty percent loss of BMP and its purpose.

Producers entitled to disaster assistance are persons who own the land the BMP's are installed on or the right to use the land and can document their spending for BMP implementation.