

Stream Access Permit Program

Water quality is protected and the likelihood of flooding is reduced when people use proper techniques and materials to prevent or decrease erosion along streams as well as to remove debris or deposits in streams on their property. For these reasons, the Landowner Stream Access Permitting Program is very important.

The Permitting Program helps individuals by coordinating stream access permitting activities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and by providing follow-up technical assistance.

The program is designed to help landowners follow an approved stream plan to remove debris and rock or silt deposits from established stream channels. The program also allows landowners to manage streambank erosion in a way that protects the overall integrity of the stream.

In FY06, Conservation Districts and the Agency processed 446 applications. This is an increase of 24 percent since FY05 and an increase of 95 percent since FY04. Additionally, they were able to provide follow-up technical assistance to 20 more landowners than in the previous fiscal year.

To enhance the efficiency of permit tracking, administration and available resources, staff have access to newly designed web administration tools. These tools provide online mapping, permit and photo upload capabilities as well as quick access to site information and site assignments. Efforts by the Agency's GIS Database Administrator and Information Systems Specialist continue to improve online capabilities to ease the administrative oversight of stream permitting.



As indicated by the chart, the Permit Program's success has been growing as more landowners learn about assistance with technical plans and permit issues for stream problems.

