

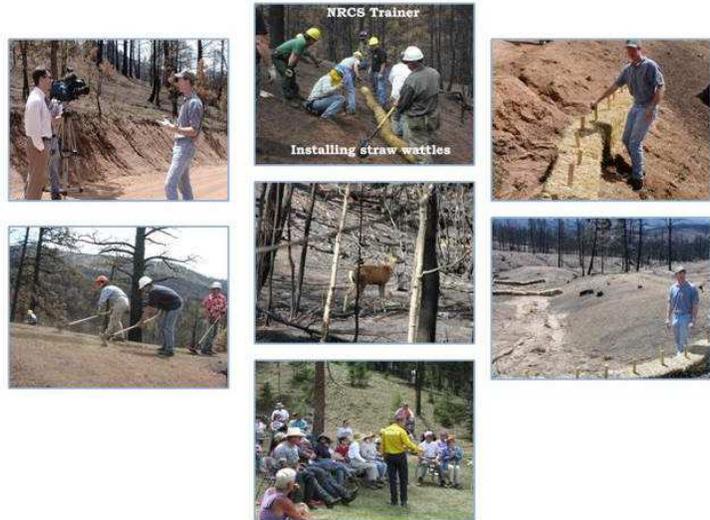
Contact: Greg Langer, NRCS District Conservationist, Colorado Springs

Additional Information: <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Since the 1930s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked through conservation districts and others throughout the U.S. to help landowners, as well as Federal, State, tribal and local governments and community groups conserve natural resources on private lands.

Colorado private landowners impacted by Colorado’s 2012 fire season now asking, “*What About My Land,*” NRCS may be able to provide you with some assistance.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides private landowners relief from imminent hazard to life and property causes by a natural disasters (e.g., fire, hurricane, floods, windstorms, blizzards, etc.) through the installation of conservation measures that will promote the grass growth in areas to stabilize soil and slow runoff as well as help lessen the impacts of water flow, debris runoff and erosion from rain/flood events on lands downstream and down slope from certain burned areas.



NRCS Support includes providing technical assistance through its [Conservation Technical Assistance \(CTA\) Program](#) as well as helping coordinate resources through its [Emergency Watershed Protection \(EWP\) Program](#) for measures such as:

[2012 Concrete Barrier Wall Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Contour Sandbags Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Contour Wattles Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Dike Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Diversion Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Erosion Control Mats Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Grade Stabilizers Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Hand Raking Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Hillside Home Drainage Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Hydromulching Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Log Erosion Barrier Fact Sheet](#)

[2012 Mechanical Scarification Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Rock Check Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Rock Outlet Protection Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Sandbag Barrier Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Sediment Basin Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Seeding Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Straw Bale Check Dam Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Straw Bale Dike Fact Sheet](#)
[2012 Wire Fabric Gabion Fact Sheet](#)

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program for the Waldo Canyon Fire – July 9, 2012

Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

- **CTA is a not a cost-shared program.**

The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program is a voluntary program that provides technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the Department of Agriculture's principal agency for providing conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations through a national network of locally respected, technically skilled, professional conservationists. These conservationists deliver consistent, science-based, site-specific solutions to help private landowners voluntarily conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resource base. The Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program is the foundation of this conservation technical assistance and serves to focus on natural resource issues at the local level that are of local, State, multi-state, and national concern.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for the Waldo Canyon Fire – July 9, 2012

- **EWP is a cost-shared program**
- **EWP funding is subject to Congressional approval.**
- **NRCS is currently in the process of completing its damage assessment report for the Waldo Canyon fire. Upon the report's completion, determinations will be made for EWP funding needs.**

NRCS administers the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. The EWP Program helps safeguard lives and property threatened by natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, hurricanes, and tornados. It provides technical and cost-share assistance to reduce threats to life and property in the wake of natural disasters such as floods and fires. NRCS facilitates emergency measures to retard runoff, and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, as authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture. NRCS assistance includes removing and establishing vegetative cover, controlling gullies, installing stream-bank protection devices; removing debris and sediment; and stabilizing levees, channels and gullies. In subsequent storms, EWP projects may protect homes from further damage.

The program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

All projects undertaken, with the exception of the purchase of floodplain easements, must have a project sponsor. NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services.

EWP work is not limited to any one set of prescribed measures. A case-by-case investigation of the work is made by NRCS.

Land Eligibility

Upon an EWP funding allocation from Congress, NRCS will work with the local sponsor and partners to alert landowners impacted by the Waldo Canyon fire about funding opportunities and eligibility requirements.

How Do Landowners Get Assistance

Private landowners are encouraged to visit www.co.nrcs.usda.gov for more detailed information about fire rehabilitation conservation measures. The site includes tip sheets, how to guides, and links to other agencies and organizations that can provide disaster rehabilitation assistance.