

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

An EWP Success Story in Escambia County, AL

Magnolia Branch Wildlife Preserve, owned by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, suffered severe erosion following spring floods of 2010.

Damages included severe stream bank erosion of 50 feet along the east side of the creek and 500 feet on the west side.

Pavilions, electrical utilities, camping hook-ups, and even the camp road system were threatened.

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After learning about the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians applied for financial assistance to correct the erosion issues facing Big Escambia Creek. The creek runs through the preserve and is listed on Alabama Canoe Trails as one of state's most pristine creeks.

The total amount of the project was a little more than \$670,000. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) commitment was about \$312,000. The tribe added additional in-kind services to enhance the area's infrastructure.



The streambank was extremely eroded on the Magnolia Branch Wildlife Preserve and was threatening the tribe's infrastructure at the campground.

The Tribe is pleased with the collaboration between NRCS and the tribe.

One of the many pleasures the tribe enjoys is the camping, floating, and swimming area of the creek. The stabilization of the creek banks makes the experience safer and the aesthetics more pleasing.

The EWP project was finished on time and under budget. The tribe celebrated their anniversary of becoming a federally recognized Tribe at a grand re-opening of the Preserve following the completion of the work.



The EWP repairs not only stabilized the streambanks, but added to the beauty of the Preserve.

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