



Animal and Plant Emergency Response Plans

What is Animal and Plant Emergency Response Planning?
Why is it needed? How will it benefit my Tribe?

Animal and Plant Emergency Planning is the process of identifying the plants and animals that are important to the community, the risks to them from human-caused events or natural disasters, and developing a guide for preparing for emergencies, mitigating the potential detrimental effects, and reacting to and recovering from actual emergencies.

Advance preparation is crucial in minimizing the physical, economic, and emotional damage that can result from a disaster or other emergency situation. An emergency response plan (ERP) enables animal and plant owners or farmers, first responders, Tribal leaders, the USDA or other government departments, and all other stakeholders to determine in advance how they will work together in the event of an emergency. ERPs can be integrated into the Tribe's overall Emergency Management Plan and included in the emergency-preparedness exercises. They benefit the Tribe by helping to **increase human safety and reduce costs and loss.**

As in Hurricane Katrina, people's pets play a major role in their decision to move to safety in natural disasters. A 2007 Harvard study



showed that **27% of people would not evacuate in the event of a hurricane because they did not have a place to take their pets or would not leave them.**

Those that leave them behind in emergencies are the most likely to try to re-enter damaged areas in order to care for them. ERPs for pets can **reduce resources needed** as a result.

Assistance is available through USET to develop an ERP to meet your Tribe's needs. **Animal and plant emergencies can vary greatly** from species to species and in different locations. For example, these can include protecting commercially important crops and culturally or environmentally significant plants from **invasive species**, such as the emerald ash borer in New England, or **diseases** like citrus canker affecting Florida orchards. Livestock plans may cover the prevention and quarantine of widespread animal disease or for animal care during **natural disasters**. Species inventories may be part of the plan, as well.

For Further Information:

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Plant and Animal ERP Funding and Technical Assistance through USET

Funding and technical assistance for animal and plant emergency response planning are available through a cooperative agreement between USET and USDA-APHIS.

The funds may be used to develop ERPs, a process which may include: risk analysis, plant and animal inventories, disease management programs, pet and/or livestock shelter and evacuation plans for use in natural disasters, or invasive species eradication plans, or many other aspects of emergency management. Computers, GPS units, animal crates, and other equipment needed to create or implement the ERP may also be purchased.

Initial grants of up to \$10,500 are available to Tribes who have not received animal ERP funding in the past through USET or directly from APHIS. Tribes who have received prior funds may be eligible for an additional grant that can be used to create a comprehensive plant and animal (livestock and pets, as needed) ERP that can be integrated into the Tribe's overall emergency management plan. Funds must be dispersed by September 15, 2009.

Technical assistance is also available through USET. Carry Sexton, the Project Coordinator, serves as a resource for information and training and is available for hands-on assistance with emergency response planning.

