

**§ 2203. Undertaking of runoff retardation and soil-erosion preventive measures; cooperation with landowners and land users; criteria**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of floodplain easements, for runoff retardation and soil-erosion prevention, in cooperation with landowners and land users, as the Secretary deems necessary to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood, or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of that watershed.

(Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §403, Aug. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 434; Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §382, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1016.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-127 inserted “, including the purchase of floodplain easements,” after “emergency measures”.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

Pub. L. 100-387, title IV, §402, as added Pub. L. 101-82, title V, §503, Aug. 14, 1989, 103 Stat. 586, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture may provide disaster relief assistance in accordance with this section to repair damage caused by storms occurring in 1988 or 1989 to watersheds located in any county in any State, to the extent that funds authorized by this section remain available.

“(b) FORM OF ASSISTANCE.—The assistance authorized by this section—

“(1) includes both financial and technical assistance; and

“(2) shall be provided in a manner consistent with similar assistance authorized under section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203).

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1990.”

**§ 2204. Authorization of appropriations; availability of funds; implementation of provisions; limitations on expenditures**

There are authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Such funds shall remain available until expended. In implementing the provisions of this chapter, the Secretary of Agriculture may use the facilities, services, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The Corporation shall not make any expenditures to carry out the provisions of this chapter unless funds specifically appropriated for such purpose have been transferred to it.

(Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §404, Aug. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 434.)

**§ 2205. Regulations for implementation of provisions**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to prescribe such regulations as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §405, Aug. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 434.)

**§ 2206. Emergency forest restoration program**

**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

**(1) Emergency measures**

The term “emergency measures” means those measures that—

(A) are necessary to address damage caused by a natural disaster to natural resources on nonindustrial private forest land, and the damage, if not treated—

(i) would impair or endanger the natural resources on the land; and

(ii) would materially affect future use of the land; and

(B) would restore forest health and forest-related resources on the land.

**(2) Natural disaster**

The term “natural disaster” includes wildfires, hurricanes or excessive winds, drought, ice storms or blizzards, floods, or other resource-impacting events, as determined by the Secretary.

**(3) Nonindustrial private forest land**

The term “nonindustrial private forest land” means rural land, as determined by the Secretary, that—

(A) has existing tree cover (or had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster and is suitable for growing trees); and

(B) is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or other private legal entity, that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

**(4) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

**(b) Availability of assistance**

The Secretary may make payments to an owner of nonindustrial private forest land who carries out emergency measures to restore the land after the land is damaged by a natural disaster.

**(c) Eligibility**

To be eligible to receive a payment under subsection (b), an owner must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the nonindustrial private forest land on which the emergency measures are carried out had tree cover immediately before the natural disaster.

**(d) Cost share requirement**

Payments made under subsection (b) shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the emergency measures carried out by an owner of nonindustrial private forest land.

**(e) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such funds as may be necessary to carry out this section. Amounts so appropriated shall remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §407, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title VIII, §8203(a), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1290, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VIII, §8203(a), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2051.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.