

Pub. L. 101-82, §502(2), temporarily substituted “any fiscal year in which there is a period of severe drought” for “periods of severe drought”. See Effective and Termination Dates of 1989 Amendment note below.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1989  
AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-82, title V, §502(2), Aug. 14, 1989, 103 Stat. 586, provided in part that amendment by section 502(2) of Pub. L. 101-82 is effective only for fiscal year 1989.

**§ 2203. Emergency measures**

**(a) In general**

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.

**(b) Floodplain easements**

**(1) Modification and termination**

The Secretary may modify or terminate a floodplain easement administered by the Secretary under this section if—

- (A) the current owner agrees to the modification or termination; and
- (B) the Secretary determines that the modification or termination—
  - (i) will address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative; and
  - (ii) is in the public interest.

**(2) Consideration**

**(A) Termination**

As consideration for termination of an easement and associated agreements under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall enter into compensatory arrangements as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

**(B) Modification**

In the case of a modification under paragraph (1)—

- (i) as a condition of the modification, the current owner shall enter into a compensatory arrangement (as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary) to incur the costs of modification; and
- (ii) the Secretary shall ensure that—
  - (I) the modification will not adversely affect the floodplain functions and values for which the easement was acquired;
  - (II) any adverse impacts will be mitigated by enrollment and restoration of other land that provides greater floodplain functions and values at no additional cost to the Federal Government; and
  - (III) the modification will result in equal or greater environmental and economic values to the United States.

(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; Pub. L. 113-79, title II, §2506, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 752.)

AMENDMENTS

2014—Pub. L. 113-79 inserted section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

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.