

(Pub. L. 95-334, title IV, §402B, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title II, §2403(c), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4572.)

§ 2203. Emergency watershed program

(a) In general

The Secretary is authorized to undertake emergency watershed protection 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; Pub. L. 115-334, title II, §2403(a)(2)(A), (d), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4571, 4572.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-334, §2403(d)(1), substituted “Emergency watershed program” for “Emergency measures” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-334, §2403(d)(2), inserted “watershed protection” after “emergency”.

Pub. L. 115-334, §2403(a)(2)(A), substituted “The Secretary is” for “The Secretary of Agriculture is”.

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”.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1978, see section 406 of Pub. L. 95-334, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

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, authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial and technical 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, with \$25,000,000 appropriated for fiscal year 1990.

§ 2204. Funding and administration

(a) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such funds as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter, to remain available until expended.

(b) Set-aside for fencing

Of the amounts made available under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, 25 percent shall be set aside until April 1 of that fiscal year for the repair or replacement of fencing.

(c) Use of Commodity Credit Corporation

In implementing this chapter, the Secretary may use the facilities, services, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

(d) Limitation

The Commodity Credit 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; Pub. L. 115-334, title II, §2403(a)(2)(A), (e), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4571, 4572.)

2018—Pub. L. 115-334, §2403(e), inserted section catchline; designated first, third, and fourth sentences as subsecs. (a), (c), and (d), respectively, and inserted headings; in subsec. (a), inserted “, to remain available until expended” before period at end; in subsec. (c), substituted “In implementing this chapter” for “In implementing the provisions of this chapter”; in subsec. (d), substituted “The Commodity Credit Corporation” for “The Corporation”; added subsec. (b); and struck out former second sentence which read as follows: “Such funds shall remain available until expended.”

Pub. L. 115-334, §2403(a)(2)(A), substituted “Secretary” for “Secretary of Agriculture” in third sentence.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1978, see section 406 of Pub. L. 95-334, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.