



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA PROVIDES \$104.5 MILLION FOR NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY IN 15 STATES

WASHINGTON, June 8, 2005-Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced \$104.5 million in Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) funding for locally-sponsored watershed protection projects resulting from floods and other natural disasters such as tornadoes, fires, drought and hurricanes.

"These funds were provided through a supplemental appropriation and will help restore critical watersheds while responding to the needs of rural communities," said Johanns.

States receiving the emergency funds are Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

Through EWP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to protect life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding caused by the sudden impairment of a watershed from a natural disaster.

EWP funds address public safety and restoration efforts on private lands and are used to remove debris, restore eroded streambanks, re-seed burned areas and take related steps to mitigate threats to people and property from impaired watersheds.

Following is a list of states and the total EWP funds they will receive. The balance of the supplemental funds, \$1,670,800, will be used as a contingency reserve.

State	Total EWP Funds
Alabama	\$3,175,200
Arizona	\$3,672,000
California	\$10,800,000
Florida	\$3,000,000
Hawaii	\$240,000
Massachusetts	\$1,485,600
Mississippi	\$344,400
New Mexico	\$2,400,000
New York	\$2,772,000
Ohio	\$102,000
Oklahoma	\$9,300,000
Pennsylvania	\$912,000
Tennessee	\$1,645,200
Utah	\$62,800,800
Washington	\$180,000
TOTAL	\$102,829,200

Additional information on EWP is on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp>.