

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 243

To provide assistance for watersheds adversely affected by qualifying natural disasters.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To provide assistance for watersheds adversely affected by qualifying natural disasters.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) DISASTER COUNTY.—The term “disaster  
6 county” means—

7 (A) a county included in the geographical  
8 area covered by a qualifying natural disaster  
9 declaration; and

1 (B) each county contiguous to a county de-  
2 scribed in subparagraph (A), when appropriate  
3 as determined by the Secretary.

4 (2) QUALIFYING NATURAL DISASTER DECLARA-  
5 TION.—The term “qualifying natural disaster dec-  
6 laration” means a major disaster or emergency des-  
7 ignated by the President under the Robert T. Staf-  
8 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
9 (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
11 the Secretary of Agriculture.

12 (b) ASSISTANCE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any funds in the  
14 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary  
15 of the Treasury shall transfer to the account used to  
16 carry out the emergency watershed protection pro-  
17 gram established under section 403 of the Agricul-  
18 tural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203)  
19 \$61,930,257, which the Secretary shall use to pro-  
20 vide financial and technical assistance in disaster  
21 counties to project sponsors to address impaired wa-  
22 tersheds under that program.

23 (2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The account  
24 described in paragraph (1) shall be entitled to re-  
25 ceive, shall accept, and shall be used to carry out

- 1 this section the funds transferred under paragraph
- 2 (1), without further appropriation.

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