



NEWS RELEASE

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EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM FUNDING WILL HELP WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 2005-Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced today that \$6 million will be available through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) for Washington County, Utah.

"This funding will provide emergency assistance to help restore natural resources and protect property from the devastating effects of the recent flooding," Johanns said.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing disaster assistance information and EWP program guidance in Utah to communities, landowners, and other agencies. Interdisciplinary teams made up of NRCS resource conservationists, engineers, foresters, biologists, geologists and soil scientists currently are assessing damages, compiling data, and working with local communities that have eligible emergency recovery work in Utah.

NRCS administers EWP to help remove threats to life and property that remain in the nation's watersheds in the aftermath of natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires.

The purpose of the EWP program is to undertake emergency measures 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 the watershed.

These funds were provided through Congressional emergency supplemental appropriations and are used for such measures as debris removal, streambank stabilization, revegetation, purchase of floodplain easements and repair of water control structures and public infrastructure.

Information on EWP and the recent flood damage in Utah is on the Web at <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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