

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1646

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make cost-share and incentive payments for innovative fuels management conservation practices, including prescribed grazing management on private grazing land and practices that complement commensurate public land, to prevent the occurrence and spread of, and damages caused by, wildfires fueled by invasive species.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2007

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

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make cost-share and incentive payments for innovative fuels management conservation practices, including prescribed grazing management on private grazing land and practices that complement commensurate public land, to prevent the occurrence and spread of, and damages caused by, wildfires fueled by invasive species.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Wildfire
3 Presuppression Fuels Management Pilot Program Act of
4 2007”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds that—

7 (1) private grazing land in the United States
8 has experienced dramatic increases in the levels of
9 cheatgrass and other invasive or noxious weed spe-
10 cies following wildfires; and

11 (2) to address the needs of private landowners
12 with respect to the protection and management of
13 grazing land, the Secretary of Agriculture should
14 provide cost-share and incentive payments to the
15 landowners to develop fuels management plans and
16 practices and to promote activities—

17 (A) to protect areas of grazing land and
18 wildlife habitat that have not been negatively
19 affected by wildfire; and

20 (B) to manage the risks of wildfires that
21 occur—

22 (i) on public land and rights-of-way
23 from moving onto private grazing land;
24 and

25 (ii) on private land from moving onto
26 public land and right-of-way.

1 **SEC. 3. FIRE PRESUPPRESSION CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1240B of the Food Secu-
3 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2010”
6 and inserting “2012”; and

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
9 “and” at the end;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
11 the period at the end and inserting “;
12 and”; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(C) a producer that develops a fuels man-
16 agement conservation plan, approved by the
17 Natural Resources Conservation Service, and
18 subsequently implements a structural practice
19 or a land management practice relating to fire
20 presuppression on private grazing land as de-
21 scribed in the approved conservation plan, shall
22 be eligible to receive cost-share payments and
23 annual incentive payments in accordance with
24 subsection (i).”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(i) WILDFIRE PRESUPPRESSION CONSERVATION
2 PROGRAM.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years
4 2008 through 2012, the Secretary shall provide cost-
5 share payments under subsection (d) and annual in-
6 centive payments under subsection (e) to producers
7 that enter into contracts as described in paragraph
8 (2) for activities described in paragraph (3).

9 “(2) TERM OF CONTRACTS.—Notwithstanding
10 subsection (b)(2)(A), a contract entered into under
11 this subsection shall have a term of—

12 “(A) not less than 5 years; and

13 “(B) not more than 10 years.

14 “(3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—In addition to
15 grants under section 1240H, the Secretary may pro-
16 vide cost-share payments and incentive payments
17 under this subsection to producers for planning and
18 carrying out innovative fuels management conserva-
19 tion plans on private grazing land to help prevent
20 the occurrence and spread of, and damages caused
21 by, wildfires fueled by invasive or noxious weed spe-
22 cies, including activities relating to—

23 “(A) managed fuel breaks along a bound-
24 ary between public and private land to reduce
25 fuel load, including—

1 “(i) managed grazing practices and
2 the technology required to implement such
3 a practice; and

4 “(ii) the use of brush strips or mosaic
5 patches;

6 “(B) restoration of fire-damage areas
7 using adapted plant material, with an emphasis
8 on using native and adapted grasses and forbs
9 to vegetate or revegetate the fire-damaged
10 areas;

11 “(C) projects that receive expanded con-
12 servation innovation grants for technology
13 transfer training programs relating to fuels
14 management techniques;

15 “(D) protection or restoration of critical
16 wildlife habitat; and

17 “(E) conservation practices designed to re-
18 duce and manage high fuel loads associated
19 with woody plant species.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1240H(b)
21 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
22 8(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting
23 the following:

24 “(2) implement projects or activities, such as—

1 “(A) market systems for pollution reduc-
2 tion;
3 “(B) innovative conservation practices, in-
4 cluding the storing of carbon in the soil; and
5 “(C) innovative grazing management ac-
6 tivities described in section 1240B(i)(3); and”.

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