

1 Page 1-line 8 After "account I;" insert "clarifying
2 authority of the Wyoming water development
3 commission regarding Inflation Reduction Act
4 funding for drought mitigation projects and
5 regional conservation partnership program
6 funding;".
7

8 Page 6-after line 8 Insert and renumber as necessary:
9

10 **"Section 6. INFLATION REDUCTION ACT DROUGHT MITIGATION IN**
11 **THE RECLAMATION STATES.**
12

13 (a) Section 50233 of Public Law 117-169, 136 Stat. 1818,
14 (commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022)
15 appropriates four billion dollars (\$4,000,000,000.00) to the
16 secretary of the interior, acting through the commissioner of the
17 bureau of reclamation, to mitigate the impacts of drought in the
18 reclamation states with priority given to the Colorado River Basin.
19

20 (b) The bureau of reclamation is authorized to contract with
21 public entities such as the Wyoming water development commission
22 through September 30, 2026, for grants, contracts or financial
23 assistance agreements that provide for the conduct of activities
24 to mitigate the impacts of drought.
25

26 (c) The water development commission shall continue to be
27 authorized to contract with the bureau of reclamation and accept
28 funding for grants, contracts and financial assistance agreements
29 that provide for the conduct of the drought mitigation activities
30 identified in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and related to
31 Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River Basin. The commission shall
32 identify, evaluate, prioritize and recommend to the bureau of
33 reclamation drought mitigation activities in accordance with
34 criteria established for funding those activities.
35

36 (d) The water development commission shall be authorized to
37 contract with Wyoming water right holders and others to implement
38 the drought mitigation activities identified in this section.
39

40 (e) The identification, evaluation, prioritization and
41 recommendation of qualifying drought mitigation activities under
42 this section, and the decisions of the water development commission
43 relating to the identification, evaluation, prioritization and
44 recommendation to the bureau of reclamation of qualifying drought

1 mitigation activities for funding under the Inflation Reduction
2 Act of 2022, shall be exempt from the provisions of the Wyoming
3 Administrative Procedure Act including judicial review under W.S.
4 16-3-114 and 16-3-115.

5
6 (f) The definition of "sponsor" as defined in the rules and
7 regulations of the water development commission, Chapter 1,
8 Section 3(i), shall not apply to qualifying drought mitigation
9 activities within the state of Wyoming for Inflation Reduction Act
10 of 2022 funding.

11
12 (g) The authority granted to the water development
13 commission under this section shall be effective only when
14 Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 funding for drought mitigation
15 activities remains available.

16
17 **Section 7. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM -**
18 **FUNDING.**

19
20 (a) Section 2701 of Public Law 115-334, 132 Stat. 4592,
21 (commonly known as the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 or
22 "Farm Bill") establishes the regional conservation partnership
23 program (16 U.S.C. 3871 through 3871f, and 7 CFR 1464),
24 appropriating three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000.00) to
25 the secretary of agriculture, for the purpose of furthering
26 conservation, protection restoration and sustainable use of soil,
27 water, wildlife, agricultural land and related natural resources
28 on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, and to encourage
29 eligible partners to cooperate with producers in achieving
30 conservation outcomes and benefits.

31
32 (b) Section 2501 of Public Law 115-334, 132 Stat. 4592
33 designates the United States department of agriculture, natural
34 resources conservation service (NRCS), as the lead agency in
35 developing and establishing technical standards and requirements
36 for conservation programs carried out under the regional
37 conservation partnership program.

38
39 (c) Section 21001 of Public Law 117-169, 136 Stat. 1818,
40 (commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022)
41 appropriates two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000.00)
42 for fiscal year 2023 to the secretary of agriculture to carry out
43 the regional conservation partnership program.

44
45 (d) The secretary of agriculture is authorized to enter into
46 partnership agreements with the Wyoming water development

1 commission to implement eligible regional conservation partnership
2 program projects.

3
4 (e) NRCS has granted the Wyoming water development commission
5 twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000.00) to manage regional
6 conservation partnership program projects for the purpose of water
7 efficiency and conservation in Wyoming's portion of the Colorado
8 River Basin.

9
10 (f) The water development commission shall continue to be
11 authorized to enter into partnership agreements with NRCS to
12 implement regional conservation partnership program projects. The
13 commission shall utilize the regional conservation partnership
14 program funding to implement eligible regional conservation
15 partnership program projects in Wyoming's portion of the Colorado
16 River Basin. The commission shall identify, evaluate, prioritize
17 and recommend to NRCS regional conservation partnership program
18 projects in accordance with criteria established for funding those
19 projects.

20
21 (g) The water development commission shall be authorized to
22 contract with Wyoming water right holders and others to implement
23 the regional conservation partnership program funding projects
24 identified in this section.

25
26 (h) The identification, evaluation, prioritization and
27 recommendation of qualifying regional conservation partnership
28 program projects under this section, and the decisions of the water
29 development commission relating to the evaluation, prioritization
30 and recommendation to the NRCS of qualifying regional conservation
31 partnership program projects are specifically exempt from the
32 provisions of the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act including
33 judicial review under W.S. 16-3-114 and 16-3-115.

34
35 (j) The definition of "sponsor" as defined in the rules and
36 regulations of the water development commission, Chapter 1,
37 Section 3(i), shall not apply to qualifying projects within the
38 state of Wyoming for regional conservation partnership program
39 funding.

40
41 (k) The authority granted to the water development
42 commission under this section and any criteria or administrative
43 procedures established pursuant to this section shall be effective
44 only when regional conservation partnership program funding
45 remains available."

46
47 Page 6-line 10 Delete "**Section 6.**" and insert "**Section 8**".

1
2 Page 7-line 25 Delete "**Section 7.**" and insert "**Section 9.**".
3 STEINMETZ, CHAIRMAN