

The decision by Congress to provide emergency funding for incidents before they occur is not without precedent. For example, in 1997 the U.S. Congress provided funds to prevent flooding in and around Devil's Lake in North Dakota. No actual disaster had occurred, but impending weather conditions threatened surrounding communities and we provided the means to avert disaster.

I am therefore asking my colleague for his thoughts on what we can do to help out the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes and ensure the safety of the residents living around the Washakie Dam.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of my colleague and recognize the potential severity of the situation at the Washakie Dam.

I would like to assure my colleague that I will work with him to ensure that adequate funding is available to make any necessary repairs to the dam or to conduct other activities necessary to ensure the safety of people living in the vicinity of the dam.

HAZARDOUS FUEL REMOVAL

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I'm pleased to sponsor Senator DOMENICI's amendment, number 3782, to the fiscal year 2001 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill which adds critical funding to the budgets of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service for hazardous fuel removal. These funds are necessary to address the immediate threats to wildland/urban interface areas across the country which are surrounded by public lands choking with natural fuels build-up from a half-century of fire suppression. The Los Alamos fire was a tragic reminder of the threat that exists today around many communities. In my own state of Arizona, which has the largest ponderosa pine forest in the world, the communities of Flagstaff, Tucson, Summer Haven, Pinetop-Lakeside, Showlow, and countless others are virtually surrounded by the national forest.

The work being done by the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University to address forest ecosystem restoration is world-class. I believe my colleagues are aware of the forest treatment and public education programs there. I understand that an agreement was reached to provide \$8.8 million directly to the Ecological Restoration Institute for its ongoing efforts from within the funds made available to the Bureau of Land Management. Is this correct?

Mr. DOMENICI. I'm glad to have the Senator from Arizona as a sponsor of my amendment, which does provide additional necessary funding to the BLM and the Forest Service for fuels reduction. And I am aware of the work being done by the Ecological Restoration Institute. My staff met with the director of the program. It is my understanding that, from within funds provided for the Bureau of Land Management in this amendment, \$8.8 million is pro-

vided for the Ecological Restoration Institute.

Mr. GORTON. That is what we have agreed to, with the concurrence of Senator BYRD.

Mr. BYRD. I am in agreement with that understanding.

HISTORICAL SITES IN NEW JERSEY

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise to ask the distinguished managers of the bill if they would consider a request I have concerning the conference.

Mr. GORTON; I would be happy to consider a request from my colleague from New Jersey.

Mr. TORRICELLI. I rise to talk about two sites in New Jersey which are worthy of federal funding for their protection. I would hope that should additional funding become available, the Senate would consider providing federal funding to contribute to the acquisition of these sites.

The first is The Historic New Bridge Landing, located in Bergen County, New Jersey. I am concerned that this site will be lost unless federal protection is afforded to it. In November 1776, reeling from a series of devastating defeats in Brooklyn and Manhattan, the Continental Army fled across the Hudson River to New Jersey. The Red Coats, in hot pursuit, continually forced Washington to retreat.

After crossing New Bridge, Washington instructed a contingent of troops to dismantle the bridge and protect the army's rear. Though unable to destroy the bridge, Washington's troops held off the British long enough to allow the Army to escape.

This bridge called "The Bridge that Saved a Nation," was strategically situated at the narrows of the Hackensack River. The bridge and surrounding area were a hotly contested battleground, encampment ground, military intelligence post and headquarters. In 1780, when the Continental army regained control of the area surrounding the New Bridge, Washington used the Steuben house as a headquarters and stayed in a second floor bedroom.

This property has been the object of attention for historians and preservationists for many years. The historical significance of this has been confirmed; the site is listed on both the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. In addition, in 1999, the site was named among the 10 Most Endangered Historic Sites in New Jersey by Preservation New Jersey, a private state-wide historic preservation organization. Finally, this site is included in the National Park Service's Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield study, which aims to catalog important sites in need of protection.

New Bridge Landing encompasses 18 acres on both sides of the Hackensack River in Central Bergen County, New Jersey. Commercial development, neglect and time, have combined to erode and threaten to destroy this historically significant site. Since 1995, the Historic New Bridge Landing Commission has been working toward the es-

tablishment of a major new historic and cultural park at Historic New Bridge Landing, in Central Bergen County, NJ. The Commission has established a General Management Plan which outlines the objectives of the proposed park.

Today, this site remains a hotly contested battleground, and while the nature of the battle is different, the importance of prevailing is no less important. New Jersey has undergone a revolution from "Garden State" to "Suburban State." More than 40 percent of New Jersey is developed. New Jersey is by far the most built-over state in the nation and it is number 1 in the rate at which it is losing its open space. Since 1961, New Jersey has lost over half a million acres to sprawl. The area adjacent to New Bridge Landing have not been spared. Virtually all of the land adjacent to the site has been developed. This development is visible from the site, altering its character and diminishing the visitor's experience of the park's historic landscape.

Mr. President, I would like to introduce this letter from the National Park Service testifying to the importance of Historic New Bridge Landing, and the need for federal efforts to preserve and protect it. Historic New Bridge Landing is worthy of our protection, and I would hope that the Senate would consider providing funding for the protection of this important site.

The second site which I rise today to speak in support of, is the Glen Gray Boy Scout Camp, located in the heart of the Ramapo Mountains, in New Jersey.

Much like the rest of my state, this 850 acre tract is threatened with development. Sprawl threatens to eat away at this pristine site, and the remainder of the Highlands. New Jersey knows all too well the peril of sprawl and has paid a terrible price at the hands of developers of shopping malls and subdivisions.

An average of 10,000 acres of rural/agricultural land is being developed piecemeal every year in New Jersey. The NY-NJ Highlands has seen a 60 percent increase in urbanization in the last 25 years, and is expected to absorb a 14 percent increase in population by 2010. Years ago, we made an important step in the preservation of the Highlands with the effort to protect Sterling Forest. This effort was aided by a study of the New York-New Jersey Highlands Region, conducted by the Forest Service.

That study also found the Highlands to be of national significance due to the diversity and quality of its natural resources and landscape. In addition, the study confirmed threats from development to water quality, critical open space, and recreational resources.

The Highlands regional study has shown us that this region is deserving of federal funding to allow for its protection. I am hopeful that the Committee will share my concern for this region, and commit funding for its protection.