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**Following the Martin Fire, Heller Announces Affected Farmers and Ranchers May be Eligible for Additional Assistance, Emergency Loans**

*USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue Designated Humboldt County as A Primary Natural Disaster Area Due to Excessive Wildfires*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. -** U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) today welcomed the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) designation of Humboldt County as a primary natural disaster area due to losses caused by the Martin Fire between July 4, 2018 and July 23, 2018. This designation makes farmers and ranchers living in Humboldt County and contiguous counties who were affected by the Martin Fire eligible to apply for certain USDA assistance, including emergency loans.

“Nevada is still recovering from the Martin Fire, which burned nearly 500,000 acres across the state over a period of two weeks and dealt a devastating blow to ranchers who have lost their property, cattle, and grazing allotments. Nevada’s oldest ranch, the Ninety-Six Ranch in Paradise Valley, lost 100 percent of their BLM grazing allotment as well as some Forest Service and private lands in this fire,” **said Heller**. “That is why I thank Secretary Perdue for recognizing that the Martin Fire led to Nevada’s farmers and ranchers suffering significant losses after it ripped through Humboldt County and burned surrounding areas. I’ll continue working hard to see that Nevadans have access to adequate resources to recover from wildfires as well as prevent and mitigate the threat of them.”

Earlier this week, Heller joined his colleagues and fellow members of the U.S. Senate Western Caucus in [urging robust forest management reforms](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=0ECD0698-E016-4C10-B1AF-53CCD76557DA) that will reduce the risk and severity of catastrophic wildfires to be included in the final Farm Bill. [He also recently requested that the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources further explore the impact of these deadly blazes and consider important forestry reform solutions](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=CAABBEFC-6E38-4B4E-A86D-B88AF568D5A8).

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