

§ 600.3

for a coordinated administrative management program for national headquarters activities.

(e) *Legislative Affairs Staff.* The legislative affairs staff provides coordination and assistance to the Chief in the conduct of legislative affairs.

(f) *Public Information Staff.* The public information staff directs a program of information support and public affairs activities.

[49 FR 44743, Nov. 9, 1984]

§ 600.3 National technical centers.

National technical centers are located at Chester, Pennsylvania; Fort Worth, Texas; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Portland, Oregon. Each national technical center provides specialized technical assistance and services to an assigned group of states.

[49 FR 44744, Nov. 9, 1984]

§ 600.4 State offices.

Each office is under the direction and supervision of a state conservationist. Each state conservationist is responsible to the Chief for NRCS programs in a state. The Caribbean Area Office, under the direction and supervision of a director, serves the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Director of the Caribbean Area has the same responsibility and authority as a state conservationist. All references to state conservationists in this chapter include the Director of the Caribbean Area.

§ 600.5 Area offices.

Except for some states and the Caribbean Area, states have area offices which serve as a supervisory level between the state and field offices. Each area office is under the direction and supervision of an area conservationist who is responsible for NRCS activities in the area.

§ 600.6 Field offices.

Each field office is under the direction and supervision of a district conservationist who is responsible for NRCS activities in the geographical area served by the field office. Usually, the geographical area of a field office includes one or more conservation districts and one or more counties.

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§ 600.7 Other field offices.

Other field offices serve specialized activities, such as watershed protection and flood prevention projects, resource conservation and development areas, and NRCS soil survey activities. Direction and supervision of these offices are designated by the state conservationist.

§ 600.8 Plant materials centers.

Plant materials centers assemble and test plant species for conservation uses. Usually, a center serves two or more states, and is under the jurisdiction of the state conservationist of the state in which located. Centers are directed and supervised by a manager who is responsible to an area or the state office as designated by the state conservationist.

PART 601—FUNCTIONS

Sec.

601.1 Functions assigned.

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SOURCE: 38 FR 34642, Dec. 17, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

§ 601.1 Functions assigned.

The above authorities assign the following functions to the Natural Resources Conservation Service:

(a) Provide national leadership in the conservation, development, and productive use of the Nation's soil, water, and related resources. Such leadership encompasses soil, water, plant, and wildlife conservation; small watershed protection and flood prevention; and resource conservation and development. Integrated in these programs are erosion control, sediment reduction, pollution abatement, land use planning, multiple use, improvement of water quality, and several surveying and monitoring activities related to environmental improvement. All are designed to assure (1) quality in the

natural resource base for sustained use; (2) quality in the environment to provide attractive, convenient, and satisfying places to live, work, and play; and (3) quality in the standard of living based on community improvement and adequate income.

(b) Participate in evaluating and coordinating land use policy.

(c) Administer the basic program of soil and water conservation under Pub. L. 46, 74th Congress, as amended, and related laws (16 U.S.C. 590 a-f, i-l, q, q-1; 42 U.S.C. 3271-3274; 7 U.S.C. 2201), including:

(1) Technical assistance to land users in carrying out locally adopted soil and water conservation programs primarily through the conservation districts in the 50 States, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands, but also to communities, watershed groups, Federal and State agencies and other cooperators including such assistance as:

(i) Comprehensive planning assistance in nonmetropolitan districts.

(ii) Assistance in the field of income producing recreation on rural non-Federal lands.

(iii) Forestry assistance, as a part of total technical assistance to private land owners and land users when such services are an integral part of land management and such services are not available from a State agency; and forestry services in connection with windbreaks and shelter belts to prevent wind and water erosion of lands.

(iv) Assistance in developing programs relating to natural beauty.

(v) Assistance to other Department agencies in connection with the administration of their program, as follows:

(A) Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in the development and technical servicing of certain programs, such as the rural environmental assistance program, water bank program, Appalachian regional development program and other such similar conservation programs.

(B) Farmers Home Administration in connection with their loan programs.

(2) Soil surveys, including:

(i) Providing leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey which includes conducting and publishing of soil surveys.

(ii) Conducting soil surveys for resource planning and development.

(iii) Performing the cartographic services essential to carrying out the functions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including furnishing photographs, mosaics, and maps.

(3) Conducting and coordinating snow surveys and making water supply forecasts pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1940 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(4) Operating plant materials centers for the assembly and testing of plant species in conservation programs, including the use, administration, and disposition of lands under the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for such purposes under title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010-1011).

(5) Providing leadership in the inventorying and monitoring of soil, water, land, and related resources of the Nation.

(d) Administer the watershed protection and flood prevention programs, including:

(1) The 11 authorized watershed projects under Pub. L. 534, 78th Congress, 33 U.S.C. 701b-1, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service.

(2) The emergency flood control work under section 216 of Pub. L. 516, 81st Congress, 33 U.S.C. 701b-1, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service.

(3) The cooperative river basin surveys and investigations programs under section 6 of Pub. L. 566, 83rd Congress, 16 U.S.C. 1006, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service. Representation on the Water Resources Council and river basin commissions created by Pub. L. 89-80, 42 U.S.C. 1962, and on river basin inter-agency committees.

(4) The pilot watershed projects under Pub. L. 46, 74th Congress, 16 U.S.C. 590a-f, and Pub. L. 156, 83rd Congress, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service.

(5) The watershed protection and flood prevention program under Pub. L. 566, 83rd Congress, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1001-1009, except for responsibilities assigned to the Farmers Home Administration and the Forest Service.

(6) The joint investigations and surveys with the Department of the Army under Pub. L. 87-639, 16 U.S.C. 1009.

(e) Administer the Great Plains Conservation program under Pub. L. 1021, 84th Congress, as amended 16 U.S.C. 590p(b).

(f) Administer the Resource Conservation and Development Program under Pub. L. 46, 74th Congress, 16 U.S.C. 590a-f; Pub. L. 87-703, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 1010-1011; and Pub. L. 97-98, 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461; except for responsibilities assigned to the Farmers Home Administration.

(g) Responsibility for entering into long-term contracts for carrying out conservation and environmental measures in watershed areas.

(h) Assistance to qualifying states and local governments in the development and implementation of coastal management plans or programs prepared under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451, et seq.) consistent with section 303(d) of that act.

(i) Administer abandoned Mine Reclamation Program for Rural Lands and other responsibilities assigned under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (Pub. L. 95-87) 91 Stat. 445 et seq., except where it relates to responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service and Agricultural Research Service.

[38 FR 34642, Dec. 17, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 59955, Nov. 23, 1977; 48 FR 19356, Apr. 29, 1983; 50 FR 7906, Feb. 27, 1985]

§601.2 Function reserved to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Designation of new project areas in which the resource conservation and development program assistance will be provided.

§601.3 Functions reserved to the Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

(a) Executing cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding containing representations in the name of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as a whole, including the cooperation of the Department with conservation districts and other districts organized for soil and water

conservation within the States, territories, and possessions.

(b) Giving final approval and transmitting to the Congress watershed work plans that require congressional approval; and approving and transmitting to the Congress comprehensive river basin reports.

(c) Approving additions to authorized Resource Conservation and Development Projects.

(d) Land use policy evaluation and coordination.

[38 FR 34642, Dec. 17, 1973, as amended at 48 FR 19356, Apr. 29, 1983]

§601.4 Natural disaster assistance.

(a) To assist in emergencies caused by natural disasters, the NRCS may:

(1) Provide technical and financial assistance under authority of section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (Pub. L. 81-516, 64 Stat. 184, 33 U.S.C. 701b) as set forth in Part 624 of this chapter.

(2) Provide technical assistance for rehabilitation of land and conservation systems for which other U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies provide cost sharing.

(3) Provide technical assistance on rehabilitation of rural lands damaged by natural disaster.

(4) Provide assistance in evaluating the severity of the disaster, assessing problems created, and determining the amount and kind of emergency work needed for restoration.

(5) Provide available information, maps, and reports on projects described in Parts 621, 622, 623, and 640 of this chapter.

(6) Provide assistance in locating heavy earthmoving equipment.

(7) Make light trucks and other types of NRCS transportation equipment available for emergency use.

(8) Provide technical assistance in locating alternate routes when existing roads and highways cannot be used.

(b) It is the responsibility of the state conservationist in a major disaster, or the head of area and field offices in a local emergency, to determine the extent of NRCS assistance necessary and available.

§ 601.5 Defense responsibilities.

In the event of a nuclear attack NRCS is responsible for providing:

(a) Technical guidance, based upon results of radiological monitoring and the extent of radiological contamination, to farmers, ranchers, and others relating to:

(1) The selection and use of land for agricultural production.

(2) The harvesting of crops.

(3) The use of crops stored on the farm.

(4) The use, conservation, disposal, and control of water to insure adequate usable water for agricultural purposes and to prevent floods.

(5) The safety of livestock.

(b) Basic soil information, land use guides, and on-site technical assistance in selecting land for production and in applying practices to increase production of food and fiber with maximum efficiency.