

(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.