

SUBCHAPTER B—CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

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Subpart A—Conservation Operations

§610.1 Purpose.

This subpart sets forth Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) policies and procedures for furnishing technical assistance in conservation operations.

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§610.2 Scope.

Conservation operations, including technical assistance, is the basic soil and water conservation program of NRCS. This program is designed to provide assistance to (a) reduce soil losses from erosion; (b) help solve soil, water, and agricultural waste management problems; (c) bring about adjustments in land use as needed; and (d) reduce damage caused by excess water and sedimentation. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the technical agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for providing assistance to conservation districts and other organizations in planning and carrying out their conservation programs. NRCS works with individuals, groups, and units of government to help them plan

and carry out conservation decisions to meet their objectives.

§610.3 Assistance through conservation districts.

(a) Technical assistance is provided through and in cooperation with conservation districts in the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These districts, formed under authority of State laws, are operated and controlled by local citizens. They provide the leadership and the program needed to meet the conservation objectives of the district.

(b) NRCS furnishes technical assistance to conservation districts as specified in memorandums of understanding. Soil conservationists assigned to conservation districts work directly with land users and others according to the program needs and the priorities established by the conservation districts.

(c) The practical experience of land users is combined with the scientific knowledge and skills of professional conservationists to plan and carry out locally formulated conservation programs.

(d) When requested, technical assistance may be provided to owners, operators, or groups using land that is under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of the Interior if such land is included in a conservation district or if assistance is in accordance with memorandums of understanding identifying the coordination of agency activities.

§610.4 Technical assistance furnished.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance to land users and others who are responsible for making decisions and setting policies that influence land use, conservation treatment, and resource management. Technical assistance furnished by NRCS consists of program assistance, planning assistance, application of conservation practices, and assistance in the technical phases of USDA cost-share programs.