

(10) The implementation of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) (16 U.S.C. 3836a);

(11) The technical merits of proposals submitted for the Farmland Protection Program (16 U.S.C. 3830);

(12) The development of a Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) (16 U.S.C. 3837) wetland restoration plan;

(13) Statewide program guidelines applicable to WRP easement compensation, restoration planning, priority ranking, and related policy matters, 7 CFR part 1467;

(14) Identification of any categories of wetland conversion activities and conditions which are routinely determined by NRCS to have minimal effect on wetland functions and values as described in 7 CFR part 12.

(15) Conservation techniques and measures related to achieving environmental justice needs; and

(16) Types or classes of wetland that are not eligible for mitigation exemption under the Wetland Conservation provisions of 7 CFR part 12.

(d) The implementing agency reserves the authority to accept or reject the Committee's recommendations; however, the implementing USDA agency shall give strong consideration to the Committee's suggestions.

**§ 610.25 Specialized subcommittees.**

In some situations, specialized subcommittees, made up of State Technical Committee members, may be needed to analyze and refine specific issues. The State Conservationist may assemble certain members to discuss, examine, and focus on a particular technical or programmatic topic. The subcommittee may seek public participation; however, it is not required to do so. Nevertheless, decisions resulting from these subcommittee sessions shall be made only in a general session of the State Technical Committee, where the public is notified and invited to attend.

**PART 611—SOIL SURVEYS**

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AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 74-46, 49 Stat. 163 (16 U.S.C. 590(a-f)); Pub. L. 89-560, 80 Stat. 706 (42 U.S.C. 3271-3274).

SOURCE: 39 FR 7415, Feb. 26, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

**Subpart A—General**

**§ 611.1 Purpose and scope.**

(a) This part sets forth policy on soil survey operations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

(b) NRCS is responsible for soil survey activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). A soil survey provides (1) an orderly, on-the-ground, scientific inventory of soil resources according to their potentialities and problems of use, and (2) information about each kind of soil in sufficient detail to meet all reasonable needs of farmers, agricultural technicians, community planners, engineers, and scientists in planning and transferring the findings of research and experience to specific land areas.

**§ 611.2 Cooperative relationships.**

(a) Soil surveys on nonfederal lands are carried out cooperatively with state agricultural experiment stations and other state agencies. The cooperative effort is evidenced in a memorandum of understanding setting forth guidelines for actions to be taken by each cooperating party in the performance of soil surveys. Similar cooperative arrangements exist between NRCS and other federal agencies for soil surveys on federal lands.

(b) Arrangements for nonfederal financial participation in the cost of soil surveys may be made with states, counties, soil conservation districts, planning agencies, and other local groups.

**Subpart B—Soil Survey Operations****§611.10 Standards, guidelines, and plans.**

(a) NRCS conducts soil surveys under national standards and guidelines for naming, classifying, and interpreting soils and for publishing soil surveys in the USDA series.

(b) A soil survey work plan of a county or area of similar size that is to be completed for publication is prepared prior to the start of each soil survey. The work plan provides information relevant to the conduct and publication of the soil survey. The plan is signed by representatives of NRCS, land grant universities, and in some states representatives of other state agencies. Federal land administering agencies also sign the work plan if federal lands are included in the survey.

**§611.11 Reproduction and distribution of soil survey information.**

(a) *Published soil surveys.* (1) When soil survey field work is completed on a designated area, NRCS publishes the soil survey as soon as possible so that the information will be available to the public. The published soil survey includes soil maps, soil descriptions, and soil interpretations for appropriate uses such as farming, engineering, range, woodland, recreation, and wildlife.

(2) Each party cooperating with NRCS in a soil survey will receive without cost 50 copies of the published soil survey. Prior to publication each may order additional copies at printing cost by preparing a special amendment to the soil survey work plan.

(3) The number of copies to be published and the distribution of a published soil survey are coordinated by NRCS with those cooperating in the survey and with the U.S. Senators from the state and the U.S. Representative from the congressional district in which the survey was made.

(4) Copies of published soil surveys are sent by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, to depository libraries that have requested them. Copies also are sent to

interested agencies that have requested them.

(5) Published soil surveys may be obtained without charge if available, from NRCS field and state offices, and from respective members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. Land grant universities also may have copies. When the supply is exhausted, reference copies generally are available from libraries or on inter-library loan.

(b) *Interim soil reports.* (1) State and local units of government and others may need soil survey information for subdivision, town, or county planning, tax assessment, and other uses prior to the time a soil survey is published. NRCS may prepare interim reports to provide soil survey information to meet these needs.

(2) Interim soil reports may include copies of soil survey field sheets, soil descriptions, and soil interpretive maps and tables showing the general rating of each kind of soil for various uses such as farming, range, woodland, engineering, recreation, and wildlife.

(c) *Resource conservation plan data.* Information prepared specifically for use in developing resource conservation plans for soil conservation district co-operators is considered confidential. Soil maps and interpretations prepared for this use will not be made available to others without the consent of the landowner as well as the district governing body. However, copies of soil survey field sheets and related data from which the conservation plan was developed may be purchased from the local NRCS field office with prior approval from the NRCS state office. The purchase is subject to the fee schedule cited in §1.2(b) of this title.

(d) *Identity of advance reproductions.* Advance reproductions of individual soil survey field sheets include the name of the soil survey area, the state, the names of the parties cooperating in the survey, date of survey, map scale, and necessary precautionary notes.

[39 FR 7415, Feb. 26, 1974, as amended at 39 FR 27553, July 29, 1974]

**Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA**

**§ 612.2**

**Subpart C—Cartographic Operations**

**§ 611.20 Function.**

The NRCS Cartographic Division provides cartographic services needed to carry out NRCS functions. Cartographic services include general cartography, photogrammetry, aerial photography, planimetric and topographic mapping, drafting, and specialized types of reproduction.

**§ 611.21 Availability of aerial photography.**

The Cartographic Division obtains necessary clearance for all aerial photography for NRCS. New aerial photography of designated areas in the United States is obtained yearly by NRCS through competitive contracting. This photography is obtained only after it is determined that imagery of these areas available from other sources does not meet NRCS scale and quality requirements. Orders for reproductions of NRCS aerial photography are subject to the fee schedule cited in § 1.2(b) of this title. Order reproductions from the Cartographic Division, USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Center Building, No. 1, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

**§ 611.22 Availability of satellite imagery.**

Cloud-free maps of the United States based on imagery received from a satellite are prepared and released to the public by NRCS. The maps offer the first image of the United States not obscured by clouds or distortions. Orders or requests for information should be directed to the Cartographic Division, USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Center Buildings, No. 1, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782. Orders are subject to the fee schedule cited in § 1.2(b) of this title.

**PART 612—SNOW SURVEYS AND WATER SUPPLY FORECASTS**

Sec.

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- 612.2 Snow survey and water supply forecast activities.
- 612.3 Data collected and forecasts.
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612.5 Dissemination of water supply forecasts and basic data.

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612.7 Forecast user responsibility.

AUTHORITY: 26 Stat. 653; Sec. 8, Reorg. Plan No. IV of 1940, 54 Stat. 1234 (5 U.S.C. App. II); 5 FR 2421, 3 CFR 1938-1943 Comp. P. 1288.

SOURCE: 40 FR 12067, Mar. 17, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 612.1 Purpose and scope.**

This part sets forth Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy and procedure for the administration of a cooperative snow survey and water supply forecast program. The program provides agricultural water users and other water management groups in the western states area with water supply forecasts to enable them to plan for efficient water management. The program also provides the public and the scientific community with a data base that can be used to accurately determine the extent of the snow resource. The western states area comprises Alaska, Arizona, California (east side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range only), Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**§ 612.2 Snow survey and water supply forecast activities.**

To carry out the cooperative snow survey and water supply forecast program, NRCS:

(a) Establishes, maintains, and operates manual and automated snow course and related hydro meteorological networks. Planning for such networks is carried out in accordance with OMB Circular A-62.

(b) Determines and provides information on the expected water supply, including seasonal streamflow data. If pertinent and appropriate to the needs of cooperators and not otherwise available to them, may provide necessary interpretative analyses and forecasts required for operation of water-control structures and/or agricultural operations.

(c) On request and to the extent NRCS resources and any required cooperator contributions are available, establishes hydrometeorological stations