

program and in establishing program direction for the NRCS in the applicable State. The State Conservationist has the authority to accept or reject the State Technical Committee recommendation; however, the State Conservationist will give strong consideration to the State Technical Committee's recommendation.

(c) NRCS may enter into cooperative agreements with Federal agencies, State and local agencies, conservation districts, local watershed groups, and private entities to assist with program implementation, including cost-share agreement execution, assistance, planning, and monitoring responsibilities.

(d) NRCS may make payments pursuant to agreements with other Federal, State, or local agencies, conservation districts, local watershed groups, or private entities for program implementation, coordination of enrollment of cost-share agreements, or for other goals consistent with the program provided for in this part.

(e) NRCS will provide the public with reasonable notice of opportunities to apply for participation in the program.

(f) Nothing in this part shall preclude the Chief of NRCS, or a designee, from determining any question arising under this part or from reversing or modifying any determination made under this part.

### § 636.3 Definitions.

*Chief* means the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the person delegated authority to act for the Chief.

*Conservation district* means a political subdivision of a State, Native American Tribe, or territory, organized pursuant to the State or territorial soil conservation district law, or Tribal law. The subdivision may be a conservation district, soil conservation district, soil and water conservation district, resource conservation district, natural resource district, land conservation committee, or similar legally constituted body.

*Conservation plan* means a record of a participant's decisions, and supporting information, for treatment of a unit of land or water, and includes a schedule of operations, activities, and estimated

expenditures needed to solve identified natural resource problems.

*Cost-share agreement* means the document that specifies the obligations and the rights of any person who has been accepted for participation in the program.

*Cost-share payment* means the payments under this part to develop wildlife habitat.

*Habitat development* means the physical actions or practices undertaken to establish, improve, protect, enhance, or restore the present conditions of the land for the specific purpose of improving conditions for wildlife.

*Participant* means an applicant who is a party to a WHIP cost-share agreement.

*Person* means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, cooperative, estate, trust, joint venture, joint operation, or other business enterprise or other legal entity and, whenever applicable, a State, a political subdivision of a State, or any agency thereof.

*Practice* means a specified treatment, such as a structural or land management measure, which is planned and applied according to NRCS standards and specifications.

*Recurring practices* means practices repeated on the same area over the life of a cost-share agreement to achieve specific habitat attributes.

*State Conservationist* means the NRCS employee authorized to direct and supervise NRCS activities in a State, the Caribbean Area, or the Pacific Basin Area.

*State Technical Committee* means a committee established by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture in a State pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 3861.

*Wildlife* means birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and mammals, along with all other animals.

*Wildlife habitat* means the aquatic and terrestrial environments required for wildlife to complete their life cycles, including air, food, cover, water, and spatial requirements.

### § 636.4 Program requirements.

(a) To participate in WHIP, a person must:

(1) Develop and agree to comply with a WHDP, as described in § 636.7;