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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 590d, 590g-590o, 590p(a), 590q, 1501-1510, 1606, 2101-2111, 2201-2205; 48 U.S.C. 1469d(c).

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§ 701.1 Background.

(a) Through the conservation and environmental programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, the Federal Government will share with farmers, ranchers, and other eligible private landowners in the United States and the applicable territories and possessions of the United States, the cost of carrying out:

- (1) Approved soil and water conservation and pollution abatement practices, including related wildlife conservation practices.
- (2) Approved forestry practices.

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(3) Emergency conservation measures, in accordance with the provisions of this part and such modifications there of as may hereafter be made.

(b) Cost-sharing may be made available to eligible program participants by the Farm Service Agency for:

(1) Soil and water conservation and pollution abatement practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

(2) Forestry practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program or Forestry Incentives Program.

(3) Practices to correct damage to land or conservation practices caused by natural disaster under the Emergency Conservation Program.

(4) Installation of water conservation measures under the Emergency Conservation Program during periods of severe drought.

(c) Information on the practices for which costs will be shared, the exact specifications and rates of cost-sharing for such practices, and the eligibility requirements for participating in the programs, may be obtained from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation county committee (hereinafter referred to as "county committee") for the county in which the farm, ranch or other eligible land is located or from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation State committee (hereinafter referred to as "State committee"), for the State in which such county is located.

§ 701.2 Definitions.

(a) *County conservation review group* consists of the county committee; the county extension agent; a representative of the Soil Conservation Service; a representative of the U.S. Forest Service; a representative of the Farmers Home Administration; a representative of the State forestry agency or its equivalent, when the representative accepts an invitation to be a member of the group; and a representative of the conservation district in the county, where the governing board of the district accepts an invitation to designate a representative (if there is more than one district in the county, the governing boards of the districts may jointly designate only one person to represent all of the districts). The

county conservation review group shall have the responsibilities as provided for in §§ 701.10 and 701.35.

(b) *Farm* or *ranch* means that area of land considered as a farm under the regulations governing reconstitution of farms, allotments, and bases, part 719 of this chapter, as amended, and, for the forestry incentives program, "farm" or "ranch" means eligible land (or ownership tracts) as provided in § 701.30.

(c) *National conservation review group* consists of representatives of the Farm Service Agency; Soil Conservation Service; U.S. Forest Service; Science and Education Administration; Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service; Farmers Home Administration; Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Office of Budget Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Environmental Protection Agency; and Office of Management and Budget. The national conservation review group is responsible for recommending changes in program administrative procedures and policy guidelines, and evaluations of program effectiveness and operating arrangements.

(d) *Program year* means the Federal fiscal year for accounting purposes.

(e) *State* means any one of the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and (1) In the case of the Agricultural Conservation Program and the Emergency Conservation Program, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and (2) In the case of the Forestry Incentives Program, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Territories and possessions of the United States.

(f) *State conservation review group* consists of the State committee, the State Director of Extension; the State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service; a representative of the U.S. Forest Service; a representative of the Farmers Home Administration; a representative of the State forestry agency, or its equivalent, when the representative accepts an invitation to be a member of the group; a representative of the State Soil Conservation Committee, or its equivalent, when the