(h) **State component.** (1) At the discretion of the Chief, each State Conservationist has the option of implementing a State-level CIG component. A State program will follow the requirements of this section, except for those features described in this paragraph (h).

(2) Funding availability, application, and submission information for State competitions will be announced through public notices (and on the State NRCS Web site), separately from the national program. The State component will emphasize projects that cover limited geographic areas, including individual farms, multi-county areas, or small watersheds.

(3) The State Conservationist will determine the funding level for the grants competition, with individual grants not to exceed $75,000.

(4) The State Conservationist may choose to adhere to the CIG national natural resource concerns, or may select a subset of those concerns that more closely match the natural resource concerns in his or her State.

(5) Applications will be scored by the State Technical Committee, or a subcommittee thereof, based on the national Criteria for Proposal Evaluation published in the CIG RFP. Scored applications will be forwarded to the State Conservationist, who will make the award selections.

(6) In addition to abiding by the in-kind contribution exception for Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, and Indian Tribes in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the State Conservationist in each participating State will determine if and how to provide additional special consideration to underserved groups.

(j) **Grant agreement.** The CCC, through NRCS, will use a grant agreement with selected grantees to document participation in CIG.

(k) **Violations.** A person found in violation of this section is subject to the provisions contained in 7 CFR part 3015 and related Departmental regulations.

Source: 74 FR 2316, Jan. 15, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart C—**General Administration**

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