

## Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA

## § 625.2

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 6571–6578.

SOURCE: 75 FR 6546, Feb. 10, 2010, unless otherwise noted.

### § 625.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) The purpose of the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) is to assist landowners, on a voluntary basis, in restoring, enhancing, and protecting forestland resources on private lands through easements, 30-year contracts, and 10-year cost-share agreements.

(b) The objectives of HFRP are to:

- (1) Promote the recovery of endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA);
- (2) Improve plant and animal biodiversity; and
- (3) Enhance carbon sequestration.

(c) The regulations in this part set forth the policies, procedures, and requirements for the HFRP as administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for program implementation and processing applications for enrollment.

(d) The Chief may implement HFRP in any of the 50 States, District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(e) Pursuant to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) authorized by Subtitle I of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99–198):

(1) Eligible Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) projects may be selected for funding under RCPP; and

(2) The Chief may modify or waive a nonstatutory discretionary provision or operational procedure of this part if the Chief determines the waiver of such provision or procedure is necessary to further HFRP purposes.

[75 FR 6546, Feb. 10, 2010, as amended at 79 FR 44640, Aug. 1, 2014]

### § 625.2 Definitions.

The following definitions will be applicable to this part:

*30-year Contract* means a contract that is limited to acreage owned by Indian tribes. The 30-year contract is not eligible for use on tribal lands held in trust or subject to Federal restrictions against alienation.

*Acreage Owned by Indian Tribes* means:

(1) Land that is held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indians;

(2) Land, the title to which is held by Indian Tribes or individual Indians subject to Federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance;

(3) Land that is subject to rights of use, occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes;

(4) Land that is held in fee title by an Indian Tribe; or

(5) Land that is owned by a native corporation formed under section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (commonly known as the 'Indian Reorganization Act') (25 U.S.C. 477) or section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607); or

(6) A combination of one or more types of land described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this definition.

*Biodiversity (Biological Diversity)* means the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they live.

*Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)* means a voluntary arrangement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and cooperating non-Federal landowners under the authority of section 10(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1). Under the CCAA and an associated enhancement of survival permit, the non-Federal landowner implements actions that are consistent with the conditions of the permit. CCAA with FWS are also subject to regulations at 50 CFR 17.22(d) for endangered species or 50 CFR 17.32(d) for threatened species, or applicable subsequent regulations.

*Carbon sequestration* means the long-term storage of carbon in soil (as soil organic matter) or in plant material (such as in trees).

*Chief* means the Chief of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS, or designee.