

to collect and provide data and necessary interpretive analyses to the requesting party. By written agreement NRCS may accept cooperators' funds, materials, equipment, and services for this purpose.

(d) Develops and encourages use of new techniques and improving data collection and processing.

(e) Cooperates with other federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and Canadian provinces and agencies.

**§ 612.3 Data collected and forecasts.**

(a) Basic data are currently collected at numerous sites in the western states area. Data sites generally include a snow course where both snow depth and water equivalent of snow are measured. However, special sites may measure only snow depth or water equivalent. Many of these sites also provide related meteorological data, such as precipitation, temperature, humidity, solar radiation, and wind.

(b) Water supply forecasts in the western states area are generally made monthly from January through June. Forecasts may be made more frequently for an established need when data are available to NRCS.

**§ 612.4 Eligible individuals or groups.**

(a) Any individual or group who is a significant water user and who would benefit from a water supply forecast may obtain forecasts from NRCS on a regular basis provided data are available to NRCS to develop a forecast at the desired location.

(b) The program collects and interprets data as a service and an aid to agricultural interests, particularly those served by or affiliated with soil, water, and other conservation districts. Information collected by NRCS for these agricultural users is also made available to other Federal, State, and private agencies and to the general public without charge. Cooperator financial contribution is usually required for special measurements or interpretations beyond the scope of the regular program.

**§ 612.5 Dissemination of water supply forecasts and basic data.**

Water supply outlook reports prepared by NRCS and its cooperators containing water supply forecasts and basic data are usually issued monthly by each NRCS state office in the western states area for the months of January through June. Other reports jointly issued by NRCS and its cooperators include a fall water supply summary, annual and accumulative summaries of data, and a western states area report covering water supply outlook.

**§ 612.6 Application for water supply forecast service.**

Requests for obtaining water supply forecasts or related assistance may be directed to any NRCS office in the western states areas. NRCS offices are described in part 600 of this chapter.

**§ 612.7 Forecast user responsibility.**

The forecast user's obligation to the federal government is to give appropriate credit and recognition to NRCS for information furnished. The Federal Government does not assume any responsibility for management decisions the user makes which may be based in whole or part on information provided by NRCS.

**PART 613—PLANT MATERIALS CENTERS**

Sec.

613.1 Purpose.

613.2 Policy and objectives.

613.3 NRCS responsibilities in plant materials.

613.4 Special production of plant materials.

613.5 Plant materials centers.

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SOURCE: 49 FR 12188, Mar. 29, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 613.1 Purpose.**

This part provides Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy on the operations of plant materials centers. The centers have responsibilities for assembling, testing, releasing, and