

§ 623.22

person of payments for cost-share practices or easements for the purpose of obtaining a payment to which a person would otherwise not be entitled.

(c) An owner of land subject to this part who succeeds to the responsibilities under this part shall report in writing to NRCS any interest of any kind in the land subject to this part that is retained by a previous participant. Such interest includes a present, future or conditional interest, reversionary interest or any option, future or present, with respect to such land and any interest of any lender in such land where the lender has, will, or can obtain, a right of occupancy to such land or an interest in the equity in such land other than an interest in the appreciation in the value of such land occurring after the loan was made. A failure of full disclosure will be considered a scheme or device under this section.

§ 623.22 Filing of false claims.

If it is determined by NRCS that any participant has knowingly supplied false information or has knowingly filed a false claim, such participant shall be ineligible for any payment under this part. False information or false claims include claims for payment for practices which do not meet the specifications of the applicable WRPO. Any amounts paid under these circumstances shall be refunded, together with interest as determined by NRCS, and any amounts otherwise due such participant shall be withheld.

PART 624—EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION

- Sec.
- 624.1 Purpose.
- 624.2 Objective.
- 624.3 Scope.
- 624.4 Administration.
- 624.5 Eligible emergencies, recipients, and assistance.
- 624.6 Eligible measures.
- 624.7 Limitations on use of emergency funds.
- 624.8 Environment.
- 624.9 Application.
- 624.10 Investigation and request for funds.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 216, Pub. L. 81-516, 33 U.S.C. 701b-1; and sec. 403, Pub. L. 95-334, 16 U.S.C. 2203, 5 U.S.C. 301.

7 CFR Ch. VI (1-1-03 Edition)

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§ 624.1 Purpose.

This part sets forth the requirements and procedures for Federal assistance administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) under section 216, Pub. L. 81-516 and section 403 of Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-334.

§ 624.2 Objective.

The objective of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is to assist in relieving imminent hazards to life and property from floods and the products of erosion created by natural disasters that cause a sudden impairment of a watershed.

§ 624.3 Scope.

(a) Authorized EWP technical and financial assistance may be made available when an emergency exists. Emergency watershed protection consists of emergency measures for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention as needed to reduce hazards to life and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed impaired by a natural disaster.

(b) Technical assistance includes engineering and other technical expertise necessary for planning and installing emergency measures. Emergency watershed protection is authorized in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

§ 624.4 Administration.

NRCS shall provide overall administrative directive and guidance for EWP. NRCS will transfer funds to the Forest Service (FS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the national level for work to be installed by FS or its cooperators. Under general program criteria and procedures established by NRCS, FS is responsible for administering EWP measures on National Forests and National Grasslands. FS is also responsible for emergency measures on all forested lands or rangelands within the National Forests, on adjacent rangelands that are administered under formal agreement with FS, and on other forest lands. On