

Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA

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furnish information and technical assistance as needed and requested to the extent NRCS resources permit.

gram are contained in §631.10 of this chapter.

Subpart D—Emergency Watershed Protection

PART 655 [RESERVED]

§ 654.40 Responsibility for operation and maintenance.

PART 656—PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL PROPERTIES ENCOUNTERED IN NRCS-ASSISTED PROGRAMS

(a) *Non-Federal lands.* The need for an O&M agreement will be determined by the State Conservationist. Where an O&M agreement is necessary, the sponsor(s) will provide the O&M and adopt standards for Federal grant property (34 CFR part 256). Where no O&M agreement is necessary, other arrangements will be made for complying with Federal property management.

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(b) *Federal lands.* The Federal agency administering the Federal land is responsible for operating and maintaining emergency measures installed on Federal land.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 86-523, 74 Stat. 220, as amended (16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*); Pub. L. 89-665, 80 Stat. 915, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*); 7 CFR 2.62.

SOURCE: 42 FR 36804, July 18, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

§ 654.41 Performance of operation and maintenance.

§ 656.1 Purpose.

(a) *Arrangement.* O&M is a prerequisite for approval of Federal emergency assistance when:

This part prescribes Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy, procedures, and guidelines for the implementation of archeological and historical laws and appropriate executive orders for administering NRCS programs.

(1) The emergency measure needs to be operated and maintained in order to serve its intended purpose, or

§ 656.2 Archeological and historical laws and Executive orders applicable to NRCS-assisted programs.

(2) The emergency measure needs to be operated and maintained to insure that it will not become hazardous.

(a) *The Act of June 27, 1960,* relating to the preservation of historical and archeological data, Pub. L. 86-523, 74 Stat. 220, as amended May 24, 1974; Pub. L. 93-291, 88 Stat. 174 (16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*), provides for the preservation of historical and archeological materials or data, including relics and specimens, that might otherwise be lost or destroyed as a result of any Federal or federally-assisted or licensed project, activity, or program.

(b) *Time of operation and maintenance.* The sponsor(s)' obligations for O&M begin when the measure is installed and extend for the duration of the time required for the emergency measure to serve the purpose for which it is installed.

(c) *Performance.* Operation and maintenance is to be performed in a manner that will protect the environment and otherwise comply with NRCS, State, and local requirements. The method of performing O&M is at the option of the sponsor(s).

(b) *The National Historic Preservation Act,* Pub. L. 89-665, 80 Stat. 915, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to maintain and expand a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), including historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture. This law also

Subpart E—Great Plains Conservation Program

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establishes the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), to be appointed by the President. Section 106 of this Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), requires that prior to the approval of any Federal or federally-assisted or licensed undertaking, the Federal agency shall afford the ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment, if properties listed in or eligible for listing in NRHP are affected.

(c) *Executive Order 11593 (36 FR 8921, 3 CFR 1971 Comp. P. 154)*, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, provides that the Federal government shall furnish leadership in preserving, restoring, and maintaining the historical and cultural environment of the nation, and that Federal agencies shall administer the cultural properties under their control in a spirit of stewardship and trusteeship for future generations; initiate measures necessary to direct their policies, plans, and programs in such a way that federally owned sites, structures, and objects of historical, architectural, or archeological significance are preserved, restored, and maintained. Section 1(3) directs that agencies institute procedures to assure that Federal plans and programs contribute to the preservation and enhancement of non-federally owned sites, structures, and objects of historical, architectural, or archeological significance in consultation with the ACHP.

§ 656.3 Policy.

(a) NRCS recognizes that significant historical, archeological, and architectural resources are an important part of our national heritage, the protection of which requires careful consideration in this agency's project planning and implementation process.

(b) NRCS will take reasonable precautions to avoid damaging any significant historic, cultural, or natural aspects of our national heritage and will work with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in identifying and seeking to avoid or mitigate adverse effects of NRCS-assisted projects on the Nation's significant cultural resources. The procedures contained in this part have been developed to comply with sections 1(3) and 2(c) of Executive Order 11593.

7 CFR Ch. VI (1-1-05 Edition)

§§ 656.4-656.9 [Reserved]

PART 657—PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLANDS

Subpart A—Important Farmlands Inventory

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657.1 Purpose.

657.2 Policy.

657.3 Applicability.

657.4 NRCS responsibilities.

657.5 Identification of important farmlands.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 1010a; 16 U.S.C. 590a-590f; 42 U.S.C. 3271-3274.

SOURCE: 43 FR 4031, Jan. 31, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Important Farmlands Inventory

§ 657.1 Purpose.

NRCS is concerned about any action that tends to impair the productive capacity of American agriculture. The Nation needs to know the extent and location of the best land for producing food, feed, fiber forage, and oilseed crops. In addition to prime and unique farmlands, farmlands that are of statewide and local importance for producing these crops also need to be identified.

§ 657.2 Policy.

It is NRCS policy to make and keep current an inventory of the prime farmland and unique farmland of the Nation. This inventory is to be carried out in cooperation with other interested agencies at the National, State, and local levels of government. The objective of the inventory is to identify the extent and location of important rural lands needed to produce food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops.

§ 657.3 Applicability.

Inventories made under this memorandum do not constitute a designation of any land area to a specific land use. Such designations are the responsibility of appropriate local and State officials.

§ 657.4 NRCS responsibilities.

(a) *State Conservationist*. Each NRCS State Conservationist is to: