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formulation. USDA assistance is provided through field advisory committees composed of representatives of the Economic Research Service, Forest Service, and NRCS. The NRCS representative chairs the field advisory committee.

§ 621.11 Who may obtain assistance.

Assistance is available to conservation districts, communities, county governments, regional planning boards, other planning groups, and State and Federal agencies. Local groups express their desires for a cooperative study to the governor or appropriate State agency.

§ 621.12 How to request assistance.

For a cooperative study a governor, or a Federal, State, or local government agency must submit a written request and a Proposal to Study (PTS) through the NRCS State Conservationist to the Chief. Assistance in preparing the proposal may be obtained by contacting the State Conservationist. The State Conservationist sends the request and proposal with comments to the Chief for consideration. The proposal should:

- (a) Describe the basin or study area, including a map of the study area;
- (b) Explain the need for the study;
- (c) Explain the need for USDA participation;
- (d) State the responsibility and authority of the requesting agency in the study;
- (e) Estimate the extent of participation of other Federal and State agencies;
- (f) Discuss views and priorities of affected soil conservation districts regarding the proposed study;
- (g) Briefly describe the intended management organization of the study;
- (h) Specifically describe the expected results of the study;
- (i) Identify primary users of the study results and the manner in which the results will be used;
- (j) State the relationship of the study to ongoing and completed river basin studies;
- (k) State that procedures for informing clearinghouses and for eliciting public participation will be followed;

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(l) Estimate the duration and scope of the study; and

(m) Estimate the study costs by year and agency.

§ 621.13 Conditions for approval.

The Chief may authorize requested cooperative studies recommended by the State Conservationist. Priority for starting cooperative studies is based on the date of application, the readiness of the requesting agency to begin participation, the importance and significance of problems to be studied, the monetary or in-kind contributions toward the study, the sequence of ongoing and future studies, the type of study, the duration of study, the cost of study, the potential for implementation and other factors affecting the effectiveness and efficiency of the study. The number and location of cooperative studies started each year are governed by the availability of USDA funds and personnel.

§ 621.14 Recipient responsibility.

Leadership in arrangements for other needed Federal, State, and local agency participation is responsibility of the requesting agency. Consistent with national objectives and NRCS policy and procedures, the requesting agency has leadership responsibility for developing specific study objectives, providing the necessary study organization, and ensuring public participation in the planning process.

Subpart C—Floodplain Management Assistance

§ 621.20 Description.

Floodplain management studies provide needed information and assistance to local and State entities so that they can implement programs for reducing existing and future flood damages in rural and urban communities. Assistance is targeted to communities where flood damage is a serious concern and local governments are sincerely interested in taking action to reduce damage.

§ 621.21 Who may obtain assistance.

Assistance is available to conservation districts, communities, county

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governments, regional planning boards, other planning groups, and State and Federal agencies.

§ 621.22 How to request assistance.

(a) A conservation district, local community or other jurisdiction may request floodplain management assistance for a local area for which they are responsible, by letter to the governor or the agency of State government responsible for floodplain management activities. Assistance in making application may be obtained by contacting any NRCS office.

(b) The governor or his designee may request floodplain management assistance for the State by submitting a written request to the State Conservationist.

§ 621.23 Conditions for approval.

(a) USDA floodplain management studies are authorized by the Director of the Basin and Area Planning Division. Priority for starting floodplain management studies is based on the same factors as for USDA Cooperative Studies as described in § 621.13.

(b) A study for an individual community may be started upon completion of a plan of work in which the Director of the Basin and Area Planning Division concurs and for which funds are available. Preparation of the plan of work is the responsibility of and must be approved by the applicant, the responsible State agency, and the State Conservationist. The plan sets forth the responsibilities of the applicant, the State, and USDA in carrying out the study and interpreting and using the data in a local floodplain management program. The State agency responsible for floodplain management activities may establish priorities on which to base the sequence of approval of floodplain management studies within its State. The number of studies started each Federal fiscal year is governed by the availability of funds and personnel and the amount of State and local assistance available.

(c) States and communities are encouraged to make monetary or in-kind contributions toward the floodplain management study. The State and local share may reflect in-kind contributions in lieu of fund transfers.

§ 621.24 NRCS responsibility.

NRCS is responsible for providing leadership for scheduling and implementing the technical phases of the studies and preparing the reports. NRCS assists in interpreting the study results.

§ 621.25 Recipient responsibility.

The State agency is responsible for developing State priorities for floodplain management studies and coordinating this work with related activities in the State. The cooperating local government entity is responsible for obtaining permission for carrying out field surveys. The State and local participants assist in distributing and interpreting the report and providing public information and educational services.

Subpart D—Joint Investigations and Reports With the Department of the Army

§ 621.30 Description.

(a) As provided by Pub. L. 87-639, joint investigations and reports by USDA and the Department of the Army may be authorized by resolutions adopted by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the U.S. Senate or the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U.S. House of Representatives for any watershed area in the 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands if the nature of the watershed area problems dictates need for a joint effort by the two Departments.

(b) Authorized joint investigations and reports are made to determine works of improvement needed in the study area for flood prevention; for the conservation, development, use, and disposal of water; for flood control; for the conservation and proper use of land; and for allied purposes. The joint report to Congress may include a water and related land resources plan recommended for implementation. Such an implementation plan must be accompanied by an environmental impact statement (EIS) and must be in sufficient detail to permit its implementation.