

Part 606 - Exhibits

Subpart B – Development of Watershed Project Plans

606.10 Memorandum of Understanding Between NRCS (SCS) and FS

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service
Pertaining to:
The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program
The Emergency Watershed Protection Program**

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to describe policies and procedures between the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Forest Service (FS) to assure continued effectiveness of the watershed programs. This agreement builds on the general principles of cooperation, coordination, and communication which exist between the two agencies.

Authorities

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized by Public Law 566, 83rd Congress, 68 Stat. 666 (Public Law 83-566), as amended, and the 1944 Omnibus Flood Control Acts (Sec. 13, 58 Stat. 905), to cooperate with State and local governments and with other Federal agencies, to make investigations and surveys of watersheds as a basis for the development of coordinated programs and to carry out works of improvement for soil and water conservation and other purposes.

The Watershed Plans which lead to Federally funded structures are guided by the principles in the “Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies” established by the Water Resources Council as authorized by the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-80), approved by the President on February 3, 1983, and published on March 10, 1983.

Activities for emergency assistance in the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program are authorized by Section 216, Public Law 81-516 and Section 403 of Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 Public Law 95-334.

Delegations of Authority

The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated authority to the Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment and hence to the Chief of the Soil Conservation Service. The Forest Service is responsible for the forest and Federal range aspects of these programs as outlined in this agreement.

Major Responsibilities of Participating Agencies

Soil Conservation Service agrees:

At the National Level

To provide general administration and guidance for all U.S. Department of Agriculture activities related to the watershed programs.

To transfer funds for Forest Service participation.

To represent the U.S. Department of Agriculture on interagency committees relating to the watershed programs.

To involve the Forest Service in program planning and development.

To approve the release of funds for the forestry related EWP projects.

At the State Conservationists Level

To notify the Forest Service of proposals for new plans as they are received.

To inform and involve the Forest Service in the selection and scheduling of projects.

To consider the Forest Service as a member of the planning team when addressing planning issues.

To request funding for Forest Service participation in the small watershed and flood prevention planning and operation programs during the annual budget planning process.

To compile, edit, and prepare watershed reports.

To incorporate Forest Service needs into EWP requests.

Forest Service agrees:

To be responsible for the forestry aspects of the watershed program on all Federal and non-Federal woodlands, forest lands, and rangelands which are administered in conjunction with National Forest System lands.

To participate with State planning teams in the scoping process to determine watershed problems and to assist in the development of information which meets sponsors needs.

To identify and propose forestry solutions to watershed problems on both forested and non-forested lands.

To coordinate and encourage the involvement of State forestry organizations and the National Forest System in the watershed projects.

To review project proposals for impacts on other Forest Service activities.

To conduct assessments and implement approved EWP measures on public and private lands as mutually agreed to with the State Conservationist.

To submit financial information on obligations by small watershed project within each State

for small watershed planning and operations, and for each flood prevention project.

Duration

This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective as of the date of approval and shall continue in effect until modified or terminated by mutual agreement of the parties hereto. The Memorandum of Understanding on this subject entered into in 1977 is hereby cancelled.

/s/ Allan J. West (for)

F. Dale Robertson
Chief, Forest Service June 30, 1992

/s/ Galen S. Bridge (for)

William Richards
Chief, Soil Conservation Service July 10, 1992