

Part 517 – Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Subpart A – General Information

517.3 NRCS Responsibilities

Figure 517-A1

| Position | Responsibilities |
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| NRCS Chief | <p>Administer and generally supervise and direct WHIP</p> <p>Make policy and regulatory decisions</p> <p>Establish national priorities</p> <p>Determine allocation and reallocation of funds to achieve WHIP's purpose and objective</p> <p>Limit program implementation, as necessary in any given year, to specific geographic areas or to address specific habitat development needs in response to national, regional, and State fish and wildlife habitat concerns</p> <p>Maintain working relationships within USDA and externally to foster effective and efficient use of WHIP</p> <p>Waive average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation on a case-by-case basis for projects of special environmentally sensitive significance</p> <p>Waive administrative procedures, as warranted</p> |
| Regional Conservationist | <p>Serve as the approving official for all contracts and agreements when the total contract obligation exceeds \$150,000 (see Part 512, Subpart E, Contracting, Section 512.46(D), of this manual)</p> <p>Review and process requests to the Chief for waivers associated with special environmental significance</p> <p>Ensure quality assurance in program implementation at the State level</p> <p>Execute other responsibilities delegated by the Chief</p> |
| Deputy Chief for Financial Assistance and Community Development | <p>Oversee program development and implementation, including rulemaking</p> <p>Make fund allocation and reallocation recommendations to the Chief to achieve the program objective</p> <p>Coordinate with appropriate agencies and</p> |

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| | <p>organizations at the national level</p> <p>Waive administrative procedures, as warranted</p> <p>Execute other responsibilities delegated by the Chief</p> |
| Deputy Chief for Management | <p>Issue funds to State Conservationists for initial allocations, reallocations, and modifications when approved by Chief or Associate Chief</p> <p>Maintain fund accountability, including accounts for cost overruns</p> <p>Execute other responsibilities delegated by the Chief</p> |
| Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability | <p>Provide policy and technical support for program payment schedules in accordance with 440-CPM Part 512, Subpart D, Program Payment Schedules and Title 200, National Economics Handbook, Part 613, Subpart D, Payment Schedules.</p> <p>Provide oversight and evaluation of WHIP operations</p> <p>Measure and report on performance and customer satisfaction</p> <p>Execute other responsibilities delegated by the Chief</p> |
| Deputy Chief for Science and Technology | <p>Develop technology for WHIP support</p> <p>Provide analysis and evaluation support for WHIP, including rulemaking</p> <p>Execute other responsibilities delegated by the Chief</p> |