



CIRCULAR 390-21-1

Title 390, National Watershed Program Manual (NWPM), 4th Edition, April 2014
Part 500 – Part 506.

SUBJECT: PDM - Principles Requirements, & Guidelines (PR&G), Real Property Rights, Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Reports (PIFR).

Purpose. To incorporate requirements of PR&G, revise real property rights requirement for rehabilitating dams, and revise PIFR requirements.

Effective Date. The policy described in this circular become effective on August 15, 2021.

Background. On April 5, 2018 the Agency decided to implement PR&G and directed the revision of NRCS policy to accomplish the implementation process before June 1, 2018. All NRCS watershed planning initiated after June 1, 2018 must use PR&G analysis to be authorized by the NRCS Chief for implementation.

There are over two thousand high hazard potential dams. Many of these dams do not meet current design and safety criteria or performance requirements. Many dams have experienced urbanization upstream and downstream of the dam. For dams with urbanization, there is a need to provide policy for minimum land rights requirements that will allow the rehabilitation of a dam to meet its intended purpose.

State Conservationists are required to conduct a PIFR for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program projects Prior to requesting funding for planning. The policy for PIFR's is being revised to clearly communicate the requirements.

Policy. The updated policy is found in attachments A-C.

Filing Instructions. This circular is to be retained in local files until such time as the NWPM is updated to include this information.

Attachment A - PR&G Updated Policy
Attachment B – Real Property Rights Updated Policy
Attachment C - PIFR Updated Policy