

(4) Limitation

The Secretary may not designate more than 8 geographical areas as critical conservation areas under this section.

(d) Outreach to eligible partners and producers

The Secretary shall provide outreach and education to eligible partners and producers in critical conservation areas designated under this section to encourage the development of projects to address each priority resource concern identified by the Secretary for that critical conservation area.

(e) Administration

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall administer any partnership agreement or program contract under this section in a manner that is consistent with the terms of the program.

(2) Relationship to existing activity

The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that eligible activities carried out in critical conservation areas designated under this section complement and are consistent with other Federal and State programs and water quality and quantity strategies.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1271F, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title II, §2401, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 750; amended Pub. L. 115-334, title II, §2707, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4600.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(2), added subsec. (a). Former subsec. (a) redesignated (b).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(1), (3), redesignated subsec. (a) as (b), in heading, substituted “Applications” for “In general”, and, in text, substituted “3871d(d)(2)” for “3871d(d)(3)” and “program contracts” for “producer contracts” and inserted “that address 1 or more priority resource concerns for which the critical conservation area is designated” before period at end. Former subsec. (b) redesignated (c).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(1), redesignated subsec. (b) as (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (e).

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(4)(B), added par. (1). Former par. (1) redesignated (2).

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(4)(A), (C), redesignated par. (1) as (2), added subpar. (C), redesignated subpar. (E) as (D), and struck out former subpars. (C) and (D) which read as follows:

“(C) would benefit from water quality improvement, including through reducing erosion, promoting sediment control, and addressing nutrient management activities affecting large bodies of water of regional, national, or international significance;

“(D) would benefit from water quantity improvement, including improvement relating to—

“(i) groundwater, surface water, aquifer, or other water sources; or

“(ii) a need to promote water retention and flood prevention; or”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(4)(D), added par. (3) and struck out former par. (3). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Critical conservation area designations under this section shall expire after 5 years, subject to redesignation, except that the Secretary may withdraw designation from an area if the Secretary finds the area no longer meets the conditions described in paragraph (1).”

Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(4)(A), redesignated par. (2) as (3). Former par. (3) redesignated (4).

Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(4)(A), redesignated par. (3) as (4).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(5), added subsec. (d).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(1), redesignated subsec. (c) as (e).

Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(6)(A), substituted “program contract” for “producer contract”.

Subsec. (e)(3). Pub. L. 115-334, §2707(6)(B), struck out par. (3). Text read as follows: “For a critical conservation area described in subsection (b)(1)(D), the Secretary may use authorities under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), other than section 14 of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1012), to carry out projects for the purposes of this section.”

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SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 3901. Findings and statement of purpose

(a) Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) wetlands play an integral role in maintaining the quality of life through material contributions to our national economy, food supply, water supply and quality, flood control, and fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and thus to the health, safety, recreation, and economic well-being of all our citizens of the Nation;

(2) wetlands provide habitat essential for the breeding, spawning, nesting, migration, wintering and ultimate survival of a major portion of the migratory and resident fish and wildlife of the Nation; including migratory birds, endangered species, commercially and recreationally important finfish, shellfish and other aquatic organisms, and contain many unique species and communities of wild plants;

(3) the migratory bird treaty obligations of the Nation with Canada, Mexico, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and with various countries in the Western Hemisphere require Federal protection of wetlands that are used by migratory birds for breeding, wintering or migration and needed to achieve and to maintain optimum population levels, distributions, and patterns of migration;

(4) wetlands, and the fish, wildlife, and plants dependent on wetlands, provide signifi-