

approved by the soil and water conservation district in which the land described in the agreement is situated, to be carried out on such land during a period of not to exceed ten years, providing for changes in cropping systems and land uses and for the installation of soil and water conservation practices and measures needed to conserve and develop the soil, water, woodland, wildlife, energy, and recreation resources of and enhance the water quality of lands within the area included in plans for works of improvement, as provided for in such plans, including watershed or sub-watershed work plans in connection with the eleven watershed improvement programs authorized by section 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887), as amended and supplemented. Applications for assistance in developing such conservation plans shall be made in writing to the soil and water conservation district involved, and the proposed agreement shall be reviewed by such district. In return for such agreements by landowners, operators, and occupiers the Secretary shall agree to share the costs of carrying out those practices and measures set forth in the agreement for which he determines that cost sharing is appropriate and in the public interest. The portion of such costs, including labor, to be shared shall be that part which the Secretary determines is appropriate and in the public interest for the carrying out of the practices and measures set forth in the agreement, except that the Federal assistance shall not exceed the rate of assistance for similar practices and measures under existing national programs. The Secretary may terminate any agreement with a landowner, operator, or occupier by mutual agreement if the Secretary determines that such termination would be in the public interest, and may agree to such modifications of agreements, previously entered into hereunder, as he deems desirable to carry out the purposes of this paragraph or to facilitate the practical administration of the agreements provided for herein. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary, to the extent he deems it desirable to carry out the purposes of this paragraph, may provide in any agreement hereunder for (1) preservation for a period not to exceed the period covered by the agreement and an equal period thereafter of the cropland, crop acreage, and allotment history applicable to land covered by the agreement for the purpose of any Federal program under which such history is used as a basis for an allotment or other limitation on the production of any crop; or (2) surrender of any such history and allotments.

**(b) Waiver**

The Secretary may waive the watershed plan for works of improvement if the Secretary determines that—

- (1) the watershed plan is unnecessary or duplicative; and
- (2) the works of improvement are otherwise consistent with applicable requirements under section 1004 of this title.

(Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, §3, 68 Stat. 666; Aug. 7, 1956, ch. 1027, §1(b), 70 Stat. 1088; Pub. L. 92-419, title

II, §201(c), Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 667; Pub. L. 97-98, title XV, §1512(c), Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1333; Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1464, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3616; Pub. L. 115-334, title II, §2401(a), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4570.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 13 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 887), as amended and supplemented, referred to in par. (6), is section 13 of act Dec. 22, 1944, ch. 665, 58 Stat. 887, which was not classified to the Code.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-334 inserted section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

1990—Par. (6). Pub. L. 101-624 inserted “and enhance the water quality of” after “recreation resources of”.

1981—Par. (6). Pub. L. 97-98 inserted reference to energy in the enumeration of the various aspects of lands to be conserved and developed within areas included under plans for works of improvement.

1972—Par. (6). Pub. L. 92-419 added par. (6).

1956—Pars. (2) to (6). Act Aug. 7, 1956, substituted in par. (2) provisions authorizing the Secretary to prepare plans and estimates required for adequate engineering evaluation for provisions which authorized the Secretary to make studies for physical and economic soundness of plans for works of improvement, added par. (3), and redesignated former pars. (3) and (4) as (4) and (5), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4301 of Title 7, Agriculture.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of certain enforcement functions of Secretary or other official in Department of Agriculture under this chapter to Federal Inspector, Office of Federal Inspector for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, and subsequent transfer to Secretary of Energy, then to Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, see note set out under section 1002 of this title.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS TO PROJECTS AUTHORIZED BEFORE AUG. 7, 1956

Amendment by act Aug. 7, 1956, as applicable to all works of improvement and plans for such works under the provisions of this chapter, see Extension of Benefits note set out under section 1001 of this title.

**§ 1003a. Cost share assistance**

**(a) Easements**

The Secretary may provide cost share assistance to project sponsors to enable such sponsors to acquire perpetual wetland or floodplain conservation easements to perpetuate, restore and enhance the natural capability of wetlands and floodplains to retain excessive floodwaters, improve water quality and quantity, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

**(b) Amount**

The Secretary shall require that project sponsors of watershed projects provide up to 50 percent of the cost of acquiring easements under subsection (a).

(Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, §3A, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1462, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3615.)

**§ 1004. Conditions for Federal assistance**

The Secretary shall require as a condition to providing Federal assistance for the installation

of works of improvement that local organizations shall—

(1) acquire, or with respect to interests in land to be acquired by condemnation provide assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that they will acquire, without cost to the Federal Government from funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter, such land, easements, or rights-of-way as will be needed in connection with works of improvement installed with Federal assistance: *Provided*, That when a local organization agrees to operate and maintain any reservoir or other area included in a plan for public fish and wildlife or recreational development, the Secretary shall be authorized to bear not to exceed one-half of the costs of (a) the land, easements, or rights-of-way acquired or to be acquired by the local organization for such reservoir or other area, and (b) minimum basic facilities needed for public health and safety, access to, and use of such reservoir or other area for such purposes: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to participate in recreational development in any watershed project only to the extent that the need therefor is demonstrated in accordance with standards established by him, taking into account the anticipated mandays of use of the projected recreational development and giving consideration to the availability within the region of existing water-based outdoor recreational developments: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to participate in not more than one recreational development in a watershed project containing less than seventy-five thousand acres, or two such developments in a project containing between seventy-five thousand and one hundred and fifty thousand acres, or three such developments in projects exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand acres: *Provided further*, That when the Secretary and a local organization have agreed that the immediate acquisition by the local organization of land, easements, or rights-of-way is advisable for the preservation of sites for works of improvement included in a plan from encroachment by residential, commercial, industrial, or other development, the Secretary shall be authorized to advance to the local organization from funds appropriated for construction of works of improvement the amounts required for the acquisition of such land, easements or rights-of-way; and, except where such costs are to be borne by the Secretary, such advance shall be repaid by the local organization, with interest, prior to construction of the works of improvement, for credit to such construction funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall be authorized to bear an amount not to exceed one-half of the costs of the land, easements, or rights-of-way acquired or to be acquired by the local organization for mitigation of fish and wildlife habitat losses, and that such acquisition is not limited to the confines of the watershed project boundaries;

(2) assume (A) such proportionate share, as is determined by the Secretary to be equitable in consideration of national needs and assistance authorized for similar purposes under

other Federal programs, of the costs of installing any works of improvement, involving Federal assistance (excluding engineering costs), which is applicable to the agricultural phases of the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water or for fish and wildlife development, recreational development, ground water recharge, water quality management, or the conservation and proper utilization of land: *Provided*, That works of improvement for water quality management shall consist primarily of water storage capacity in reservoirs for regulation of streamflow, except that any such storage and water releases shall not be provided as a substitute for adequate treatment or other methods of controlling waste at the source, and shall be consistent with standards and regulations adopted by the Water Resources Council on Federal cost sharing for water quality management, and (B) all of the cost of installing any portion of such works applicable to other purposes except that any part of the construction cost (including engineering costs) applicable to flood prevention and features relating thereto shall be borne by the Federal Government and paid for by the Secretary out of funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter: *Provided*, That, in addition to and without limitation on the authority of the Secretary to make loans or advancements under section 1006a of this title, the Secretary may pay for any storage of water for present or anticipated future demands or needs for municipal or industrial water included in any reservoir structure constructed or modified under the provisions of this chapter as hereinafter provided: *Provided further*, That the cost of water storage to meet future demands may not exceed 30 per centum of the total estimated cost of such reservoir structure and the local organization shall give reasonable assurances, and there is evidence, that such demands for the use of such storage will be made within a period of time which will permit repayment within the life of the reservoir structure of the cost of such storage: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine prior to initiation of construction or modification of any reservoir structure including such water supply storage that there are adequate assurances by the local organization or by an agency of the State having authority to give such assurances, that the Secretary will be reimbursed the cost of water supply storage for anticipated future demands, and that the local organization will pay not less than 50 per centum of the cost of storage for present water supply demands: *And provided further*, That the cost to be borne by the local organization for anticipated future demands may be repaid within the life of the reservoir structure but in no event to exceed fifty years after the reservoir structure is first used for the storage of water for anticipated future water supply demands, except that (1) no reimbursement of the cost of such water supply storage for anticipated future demands need be made until such supply is first used, and (2) no interest shall be charged on the cost of such water-supply storage for anticipated future demands until such supply is first used,

but in no case shall the interest-free period exceed ten years. The interest rate used for purposes of computing the interest on the unpaid balance shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 1006a of this title.

(3) make arrangements satisfactory to the Secretary for defraying costs of operating and maintaining such works of improvement, in accordance with regulations presented by the Secretary of Agriculture;

(4) acquire, or provide assurance that landowners or water users have acquired, such water rights, pursuant to State law, as may be needed in the installation and operation of the work of improvement;

(5) obtain agreements to carry out recommended soil conservation measures and proper farm plans from owners of not less than 50 per centum of the land situated in the drainage area above each retention reservoir to be installed with Federal assistance; and

(6) submit a plan of repayment satisfactory to the Secretary for any loan or advancement made under the provisions of section 1006a of this title.

(Aug. 4, 1954, ch. 656, §4, 68 Stat. 667; Aug. 7, 1956, ch. 1027, §1(c)–(e), 70 Stat. 1088; Pub. L. 85–865, §1, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1605; Pub. L. 86–545, June 29, 1960, 74 Stat. 254; Pub. L. 87–703, title I, §§103, 104, Sept. 27, 1962, 76 Stat. 608, 609; Pub. L. 92–419, title II, §201(d)–(f), Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 668; Pub. L. 97–98, title XV, §1512(d), Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1333.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1981—Par. (1). Pub. L. 97–98 inserted proviso authorizing the Secretary to bear an amount not to exceed one-half of the costs of the land, easements, or rights-of-way acquired or to be acquired by the local organization for mitigation of fish and wildlife habitat losses and directing that such acquisitions are not limited to the confines of the watershed project boundaries.

1972—Par. (1). Pub. L. 92–419, §201(d), inserted “from funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter” after “without cost to the Federal Government”.

Par. (2)(A). Pub. L. 92–419, §201(e), substituted “fish and wildlife development, recreational development, ground water recharge, water quality management, or the conservation and proper utilization of land”, for “fish and wildlife or recreational development” and inserted water quality management proviso.

Par. (2)(B). Pub. L. 92–419, §201(f), in revising text and making changes in phraseology, authorized payment for water storage for present demands, inserted at end of first proviso “as hereinafter provided”, substituted provisions respecting Secretary’s determination of adequate assurances by the local agency or by an agency of the State having authority to give such assurances that the Secretary will be reimbursed the cost of water supply storage for anticipated future demands, and that the local organization will pay not less than 50 per centum of the cost of storage for present water supply demands, for provisions respecting the giving of reasonable assurances by the local organization of repayment of cost of such water supply storage for anticipated future demands, and substituted permissive provisions for repayment of cost for anticipated future demands within life of the reservoir structure for former mandatory provisions.

1962—Par. (1). Pub. L. 87–703, §103(1), inserted provisos respecting cost sharing, participation, number of recreational developments and advances of funds.

Par. (2)(A). Pub. L. 87–703, §103(2), substituted “national needs and assistance authorized for similar pur-

poses under other Federal programs” for “the direct identifiable benefits” and inserted “(excluding engineering costs)” after “Federal assistance” and “or recreational” before “development”.

Par. (2)(B). Pub. L. 87–703, §104, inserted provisos respecting water storage payments and limitation on amount of such payments, repayment agreements and period of time for repayment and provisions for commencement of repayment, interest-free period and rate of interest.

1960—Par. (1). Pub. L. 86–545 inserted provisions requiring local organizations to provide assurances with respect to interests in land to be acquired by condemnation.

1958—Par. (2)(A). Pub. L. 85–865 inserted “or for fish and wildlife development” after “and disposal of water”.

1956—Par. (2). Act Aug. 7, 1956, §1(c), required local organizations to assume a proportionate share of costs applicable to agricultural water management in consideration of the direct identifiable benefits, and all the costs of works applicable to other purposes, and provided that the Federal Government shall bear the entire construction costs for flood prevention.

Par. (4). Act Aug. 7, 1956, §1(d), inserted “or water users” after “landowners”.

Par. (6). Act Aug. 7, 1956, §1(e), added par. (6).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97–98 effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97–98, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4301 of Title 7, Agriculture.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1958 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 85–865, §2, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1605, provided that: “The Secretary of Agriculture shall not furnish or agree to furnish financial assistance to local organizations for the institution of works of improvement for fish and wildlife development pursuant to the authority of this Act [amending this section] prior to July 1, 1958.”

#### TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of certain enforcement functions of Secretary or other official in Department of Agriculture under this chapter to Federal Inspector, Office of Federal Inspector for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, and subsequent transfer to Secretary of Energy, then to Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, see note set out under section 1002 of this title.

#### PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATER IMPOUNDMENTS

Pub. L. 99–662, title IX, §930, Nov. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 4196, provided that: “The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service, shall study and report to the appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives by April 1, 1988, on the feasibility, the desirability, and the public interest involved in requiring that public access be provided to any or all water impoundments that have recreation-related potential and that were authorized pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (68 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).”

#### EXTENSION OF BENEFITS TO PROJECTS AUTHORIZED BEFORE AUG. 7, 1956

Amendment by act Aug. 7, 1956, as applicable to all works of improvement and plans for such works under the provisions of this chapter, see Extension of Benefits note set out under section 1001 of this title.

### § 1005. Works of improvement

#### (1) Engineering and other services; reimbursement; advances

At such time as the Secretary and the interested local organization have agreed on a plan