- Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment:
- (1) The authority to issue final rules and regulations relating to the administration of Forest Service programs, except as provided in 36 CFR 261.70 and § 2.60(a)(37).
- (2) As deemed necessary for administrative purposes, the authority to divide into and designate as national forests any lands of more than 3,000 acres acquired under or subject to the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, as amended (16 U.S.C. 521).
- (3) The authority to make recommendations to the Administrator of General Services regarding transfer to other Federal, State, or Territorial agencies lands acquired under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, together with recommendations on the conditions of use and administration of such lands, pursuant to the provisions of section 32(c) of title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c), and Executive Order No. 11609, 3 CFR, 1971–1975 Comp., p. 586).
- (4) Making recommendations to the President for establishing new units or adding to existing units of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (16 U.S.C. 1271–1278); National Scenic Trails System (16 U.S.C. 1241–1249) and the National Wilderness Preservation System (16 U.S.C. 1131–1136).
- (5) Signing of declarations of taking and requests for condemnation of property as authorized by law to carry out the mission of the Forest Service (40 U.S.C. 257).
- (6) Approval of acquisition of land under the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911, as amended (16 U.S.C. 521), and special forest receipts acts (Pub. L. No. 337, 74th Cong., 49 Stat. 866, as amended by Pub. L. No. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. No. 505, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 347, as amended by Pub. L. No. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. No. 634, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 699, as amended by Pub. L. No. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. No. 748, 75th Cong., 52 Stat. 1205, as amended by Pub. L. No. 310, 78th Cong., 58 Stat. 227; Pub. L. No. 427, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 46; Pub. L. No. 589, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 297; Pub. L. No. 591, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 299; Pub. L. No. 637, 76th Cong., 54 Stat. 402; Pub. L. No. 781, 84th Cong., 70 Stat. 632) of \$250,000 or more in value for national forest purposes.

§ 2.61 Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(a) *Delegations*. Pursuant to §§ 2.20(a)(1), (a)(3), (a)(5), (a)(6),

- (a)(7)(ii) and (a)(8), subject to reservations in § 2.20(b)(1), the following delegations of authority are made by the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment to the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service:
- (1) Provide national leadership in the conservation, development and productive use of the Nation's soil, water, and related resources. Such leadership encompasses soil, water, plant, and wildlife conservation; small watershed protection and flood prevention; and resource conservation and development. Integrated in these programs are erosion control, sediment reduction, pollution abatement, land use planning, multiple use, improvement of water quality, and several surveying and monitoring activities related to environmental improvement. All are designed to assure:
- (i) Quality in the natural resource base for sustained use;
- (ii) Quality in the environment to provide attractive, convenient, and satisfying places to live, work, and play; and
- (iii) Quality in the standard of living based on community improvement and adequate income.
- (2) Provide national leadership in evaluating and coordinating land use policy, and administer the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201, et seq.), including the Farms for the Future Program authorized by sections 1465–1470 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 4201 note), except as otherwise delegated to the Administrator, Agricultural Research Service in § 2.65(a)(80) and the Administrator, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service in § 2.66(a)(76).
- (3) Administer the basic program of soil and water conservation under Pub. L. No. 46, 74th Congress, as amended, and related laws (16 U.S.C. 590a–f, 1–1, q, q-1; 42 U.S.C. 3271–3274; 7 U.S.C. 2201), including:
- (i) Technical and financial assistance to land users in carrying out locally adapted soil and water conservation programs primarily through soil and water conservation districts in the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Federally recognized Native American tribes, but also to communities, watershed groups, Federal and State agencies, and other cooperators. This authority includes such assistance as:

- (A) Comprehensive planning assistance in nonmetropolitan districts;
- (B) Assistance in the field of incomeproducing recreation on rural non-Federal lands;
- (C) Forestry assistance, as part of total technical assistance to private land owners and land users when such services are an integral part of land management and such services are not available from a State agency; and forestry services in connection with windbreaks and shelter belts to prevent wind and water erosion of lands;
- (D) Assistance in developing programs relating to natural beauty; and
- (E) Assistance to other USDA agencies in connection with the administration of their programs, as follows:
- (1) To the Farm Service Agency in the development and technical servicing of certain programs, such as the Agricultural Conservation Program and other such similar conservation programs;
- (2) To the Rural Housing and Community Development Service in connection with their loan and land disposition programs.
- (ii) Soil Surveys, including:
 (A) Providing leadership for the
 Federal part of the National Cooperative
 Soil Survey which includes conducting
 and publishing soil surveys;
- (B) Conducting soil surveys for resource planning and development; and
- (C) Performing the cartographic services essential to carrying out the functions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including furnishing photographs, mosaics, and maps.
- (iii) Conducting and coordinating snow surveys and making water supply forecasts pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. IV of 1940 (5 U.S.C. App.);
- (iv) Operating plant materials centers for the assembly and testing of plant species in conservation programs, including the use, administration, and disposition of lands under the administration of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for such purposes under title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010–1011); and
- (v) Providing leadership in the inventorying and monitoring of soil, water, land, and related resources of the Nation.
- (4) Administer the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Programs, including:
- (i) The eleven authorized watershed projects authorized under 33 U.S.C. 702b-1, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;
- (ii) The emergency flood control work under 33 U.S.C. 701b-1, except for