

responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;

(iii) The Cooperative River Basin Surveys and Investigations Programs under 16 U.S.C. 1006, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;

(iv) The pilot watershed projects under 16 U.S.C. 590a–f, and 16 U.S.C. 1001–1009, except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service;

(v) The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program under 16 U.S.C. 1001–1009, except for responsibilities assigned to the Rural Housing and Community Development Service and the Forest Service;

(vi) The joint investigations and surveys with the Department of the Army under 16 U.S.C. 1009; and

(vii) The Emergency Conservation Program under sections 401–405 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (the Act), 16 U.S.C. 2201, *et seq.*, except for the provisions of sections 401 and 402 of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 2201–2202, as administered by the Farm Service Agency.

(5) Administer the Great Plains Conservation Program and the Critical Lands Resources Conservation Program under 16 U.S.C. 590p(b).

(6) Administer the Resource Conservation and Development Program under 16 U.S.C. 590a–f; 7 U.S.C. 1010–1011; and 16 U.S.C. 3451–3461, except for responsibilities assigned to the Rural Utilities Service.

(7) Responsibility for entering into long-term contracts for carrying out conservation and environmental measures in watershed areas.

(8) Provide national leadership for and administer the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2001, *et seq.*), except for responsibilities assigned to other USDA agencies.

(9) Administer Rural Clean Water Program and other responsibilities assigned under section 35 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.*).

(10) Monitor actions and progress of USDA in complying with Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 117, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 3 CFR, 1977 Comp., p. 121, regarding management of floodplains and protection of wetlands; monitor USDA efforts on protection of important agricultural, forest and rangelands; and provide staff assistance to the USDA Natural Resources and Environment Committee.

(11) Administer the search and rescue operations authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2273.

(12) Administer section 202(c) of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, 43 U.S.C. 1592(c) including:

(i) Identify salt source areas and determine the salt load resulting from irrigation and watershed management practices;

(ii) Conduct salinity control studies of irrigated salt source areas;

(iii) Provide technical and financial assistance in the implementation of salinity control projects including the development of salinity control plans, technical services for application, and certification of practice applications;

(iv) Develop plans for implementing measures that will reduce the salt load of the Colorado River;

(v) Develop and implement long-term monitoring and evaluation plans to measure and report progress and accomplishments in achieving program objectives; and

(vi) Enter into and administer contracts with program participants and waive cost-sharing requirements when such cost-sharing requirements would result in a failure to proceed with needed on-farm measures.

(13) Administer natural resources conservation authorities under title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 3801, *et seq.*), including responsibilities for:

(i) the conservation of highly erodible lands and wetlands pursuant to sections 1211–1223 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3811–3823);

(ii) technical assistance related to soil and water conservation technology for the implementation and administration of the Conservation Reserve Program authorized by sections 1231–1244 of the Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3831–3844);

(iii) the Environmental Easement Program authorized by sections 1239–1239d of the Act (16 U.S.C. 3839–3839d);

(iv) the Agricultural Water Quality Improvement Program authorized by sections 1238–1238f of the Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3838–3838f); and

(v) the Wetland Reserve Program and the Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program authorized by sections 1237–1237f of the Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3837–3837f), and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Relief From the Major, Widespread Flooding in the Midwest Act of 1993, Pub. L. No. 103–75.

(14) Approve and transmit to the Congress comprehensive river basin reports.

(15) Provide representation on the Water Resources Council and river basin commissions created by 42 U.S.C. 1962, and on river basin interagency committees.

(16) Jointly administer the Forestry Incentives Program with the Forest Service, in consultation with State Foresters, under section 4 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103).

(17) Administer the Water Bank Program under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301, *et seq.*).

(18) Administer water quality activities under the Agriculture and Water Policy Coordination Act, subtitle G, title XIV of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5501–5505).

(19) Administer the Rural Environmental Conservation Program authorized by sections 1001–1010 of the Agriculture Act of 1970, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1501–1510).

(20) Coordinate USDA input and assistance to the Department of Commerce and other Federal agencies consistent with section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456), and coordinate USDA review of qualifying state and local government coastal management plans or programs prepared under such Act and submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, consistent with section 306(a) and (c) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1455(a) and (c)).

(21) Administer responsibilities and functions assigned under the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061, *et seq.*), and title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195, *et seq.*), relating to agricultural lands and water.

(22) Administer the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program for Rural Lands and other responsibilities assigned under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201, *et seq.*), except for responsibilities assigned to the Forest Service.

(23) With respect to land and facilities under his or her authority, to exercise the functions delegated to the Secretary by Executive Order 12580, 3 CFR, 1987 Comp., p. 193, under the following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (“the Act”), as amended:

(i) Sections 104(a), (b), and (c)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604(a), (b), and (c)(4)), with respect to removal and remedial actions in the event of release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant into the environment;

(ii) Sections 104(e)–(h) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 9604 (e)–(h)), with respect to information gathering and access requests and orders; compliance with Federal health and safety standards and