United States Department of Agriculture

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July 17, 2012

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 180-12-05

SUBJECT: CPA – WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE (WCC) ACTION PLAN

TO: All Employees

ACTION REQUESTED BY: AUGUST 15, 2012

Expiration Date. December, 31, 2012

Background.
In 2011, Chief Dave White directed the States to develop a Highly Erodible Lands Conservation (HELC) Action Plan; to improve NRCS effectiveness and efficiency in carrying out the Conservation Compliance Provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act. In 2012, Chief Dave White made the decision to implement similar procedures in carrying out the Wetland Conservation provisions. The attached document is New Mexico's Wetland Conservation Compliance Action Plan.

Purpose. The action plan has four overarching objectives:

1. Ensure separation between field conservationists and USDA program participants within their servicing unit in conducting determinations, reviews, and addressing appeals,
2. Maintain a high-valued relationship between NRCS field staff and customers,
3. Improve efficiencies in determinations and reviews, and
4. Effect positive changes in NRCS WCC processes and procedures.

To accomplish these objectives, the action plan establishes State procedure on the following:

I. Wetland Conservation Compliance Reviews and Quality Assurance Reviews
II. Establishes Job Approval Authority (JAA) for WC Provisions

The Wetland Conservation Compliance (WCC) Provision Action Plan for New Mexico will be implemented, in its entirety, beginning October 1, 2012 (FY 2013).

Action Item - To be completed by August 15th, 2012.
Area Conservationists will compile the Area WCC Agency Expert Roster with those NRCS employees who have completed the necessary requirements to achieve JAA. In addition, please provide training requests for those interested in obtaining wetland conservation JAA.

File. The WCC Action Plan and all appendixes, *including fillable forms*, will be located online in New Mexico Supplements to the Manual: http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/manuals/manuals.html

MORE

The WCC Agency Roster will be filed and maintained in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section III, under "Legislated Programs, Job Approval Authority".

Contact. Please send the completed Area JAA Roster and training needs to Chanda Pettie, State Biologist, at (505) 761-4432 or email at chanda.pettie@usda.nm.gov. Also, please direct any questions concerning this Bulletin and the WCC Action Plan to Chanda Pettie.

ACTING

J. XAVIER MONTOYA
State Conservationist

Attachments:
1. Wetland Conservation Compliance Provision Action Plan (WCC_NM_ActionPlan.pdf)
2. WCC Agency Expert Roster and Training Requirements (WCCAgencyExpert_Roster_NM.xls)
3. Wetland Determination Request Procedure (CWDRequestProcedure_NM.pdf)