



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
210 Walnut Street, Room 693  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

September 23, 2013

## IOWA INSTRUCTION 190-389 – LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY IN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE UNDERTAKING

### IA389.0 PURPOSE

This Iowa Instruction provides guidance on identifying undertakings for which the NRCS will assume Lead Federal Agency status.

### IA389.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by all NRCS staff.

### IA389.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed under the Topics/People/NRCS Employees/Iowa NRCS eDirectives or at this link [Iowa NRCS eDirectives website](#).

### IA389.3 EXHIBITS

See the attachment.

/s/

Jay T. Mar  
State Conservationist

Attachment

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(IA Instruction 190-389 First Edition – September 2013)

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

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### 1. PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction provides guidance on identifying undertakings for which the NRCS will assume Lead Federal Agency status.

### 2. BACKGROUND:

There was a need for efficiency, standardization, and clarity of Lead Federal Agency determination.

### 3. PROCESS:

The accompanying flow chart illustrates how Iowa NRCS will determine whether or not it will assume Lead Federal Agency responsibilities for individual undertakings. This is important for ensuring compliance with federal laws including the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

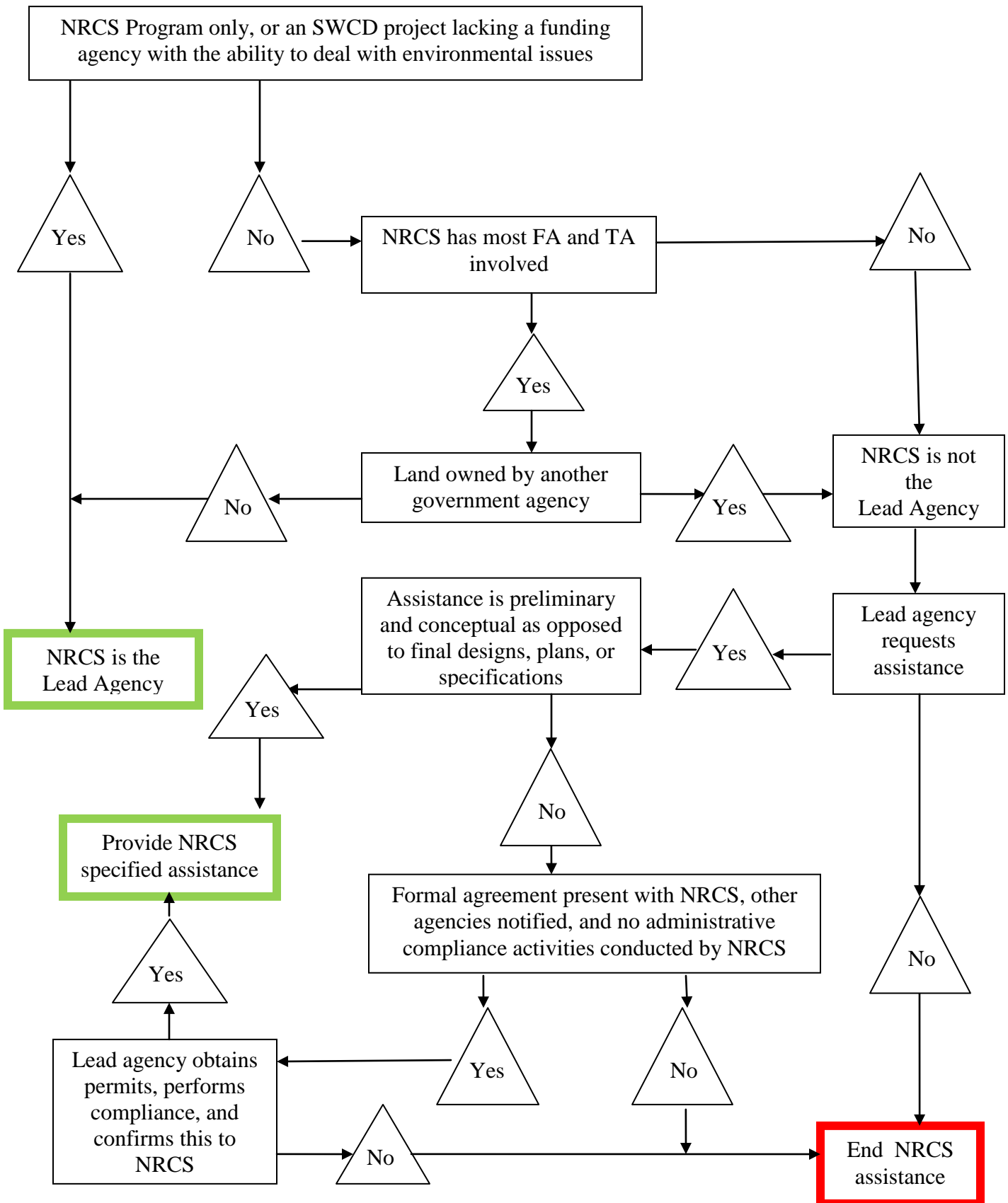
In summary, NRCS will be the Lead Federal Agency (and take responsibility for technical work required for environmental compliance) only for:

- Those undertakings involving only NRCS programs,
- SWCD-sponsored undertakings funded by another agency if NRCS has determined that the funding agency does not have the ability to deal with environmental issues, and
- Undertakings with multiple funding sources in which the NRCS has the largest funding stake (financial and technical assistance) compared to other funding sources, provided the undertaking is not on land controlled by another agency.

In all other cases, NRCS will not assume Lead Federal Agency responsibilities and will not complete technical or administrative compliance activities. In those cases where NRCS is not the Lead Federal Agency but is providing design assistance, the project sponsor or landowner will obtain permits and/or complete any required consultations. The sponsor or landowner will provide documentation of needed permits or consultation to NRCS prior to NRCS providing final designs, plans, or specifications.

NRCS employees may provide limited preliminary and conceptual assistance prior to receiving confirmation of environmental compliance by the Lead Federal Agency.

## IOWA NRCS LEAD AGENCY STATUS



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