

# WFPO Watershed Size

## Title 390 – National Watershed Program Manual

### 500.4 Project Scope

A. Section 2 of Public Law 83-566 defines the maximum watershed and structure size for works of improvement.

#### (1) Maximum Watershed Size

The maximum watershed or subwatershed area cannot exceed 250,000 acres. This limitation does not apply to Public Law 78-534 subwatershed plans.

### 506.50 Glossary

**TTT. watershed**—A watershed area comprises all land and water within the confines of a drainage divide and must follow hydrologic boundaries. In the case of irrigation or salinity projects, the watershed boundary may be based on the irrigation problem area or subsurface hydrologic area, respectively. A watershed area may comprise the land and water of two or more minor drainageways that are separate tributaries to a stream, artificial waterway, lake, or tidal area. Areas from which water is brought in by diversion may be excluded from the watershed if these sources of water have no significant effect on the flood prevention and water management problems of the watershed area. The watershed area must include all direct tributary drainageways and lands from which, after project installation, water and sediment could adversely affect any proposed structural measure, such as an irrigation or drainage canal, floodway, or floodwater retarding structure, included in the plan.

## National Watershed Program Handbook

### 600.4 Project Scope

#### A. Maximum Watershed Size

- (1) The maximum watershed size or subwatershed area authorized is 250,000 acres, in accordance with Public Law 83-566, Section 2. Please note that the Public Law 83-566 stipulates, if the Sponsoring Local Organization (SLO) so desires, a number of subwatersheds that are less than 250,000 acres in size may be planned together if they are component parts of a larger watershed. Public Law 78-534 does not limit the size of the subwatersheds developed for the 11 authorized watersheds.
- (2) A watershed area comprises all land and water within the confines of a drainage divide and must follow hydrologic boundaries. In the case of irrigation or salinity projects, the watershed boundary can be based on the irrigation problem area or subsurface hydrologic area, respectively. A watershed area can comprise the land and water of two or more minor drainageways that are separate tributaries to a stream, artificial waterway, lake, or tidal area. Areas from which water is brought in by diversion can be excluded from the watershed if these sources of water have no significant effect on the flood prevention and water management problems of the watershed area. The watershed area should include all direct tributary drainageways and lands from which, after project installation, water and sediment could adversely affect proposed measures included in the plan, such as an irrigation or drainage canal, floodways, or floodwater retarding structures. However, no single plan can be submitted for a watershed or subwatershed area exceeding 250,000 acres.
- (3) If a plan calls for the Watershed Program's contribution to construction costs to exceed \$5 million, it must be approved by the appropriate Senate and House of Representatives committees (Public Law 83-566, Section 2).