

Chapter VI

RESOURCES IN ACTION

Resources in Action: Agriculture/2000

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Conservation of Man's Total Environment

Once again we are in a conservation crisis that is a matter of urgent public concern. At stake is the quality of our total environment. The crisis will not go away. It demands action now. It demands intelligent, purposeful direction at all levels of government and personal involvement by all citizens. Conservation is a physical task, a social philosophy, and an economic necessity.

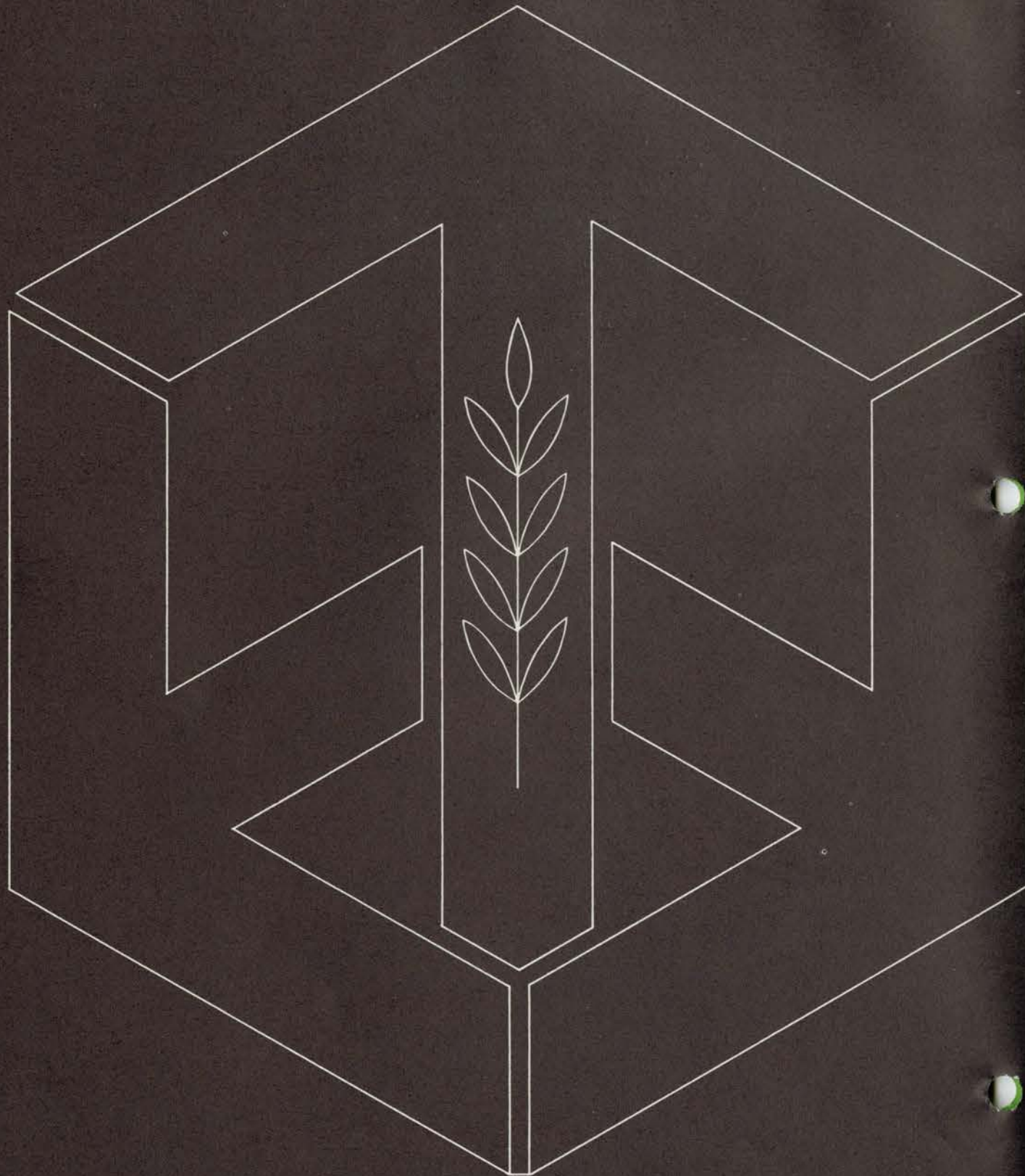
An expanding national economy requires a growing resource base. A rising standard of living demands a more wholesome environment. Fulfilling the needs of millions of people yet unborn cannot be assured unless we improve our use of natural resources and achieve planned patterns of land use without delay. The fruits of an expanding technology cannot be enjoyed unless technology itself is harnessed to meet the goals of the new conservation.

This document seeks to set down in sharp outline new conservation policies and the path to their implementation to which each of the diverse Agencies that make up the U.S. Department of Agriculture is dedicated.

Pure air, clean water, stable soils, productive crop, pasture, range and forest lands, abundant wildlife, natural beauty, and the opportunity for man to live in harmony with his natural environment are essential. They are interrelated and mutually supporting objectives. We commit ourselves to meet this great challenge, to continue our tradition of helping men throughout the world to help themselves, and to move forward with the bold new actions needed to restore, conserve, and wisely use our natural heritage and maintain it for future generations.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Orville L. Freeman".

Orville L. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture



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The Need and the Opportunity

Demands upon natural resources are growing at a tremendous pace. More people and higher standards of living require more food, wood, water, and space for outdoor recreation, and more of the many other products and services provided by our resource base.

The dimensions of these requirements on land and water resources underscore the urgency of conservation action. By the year 2000 we expect to see:

U.S. population up 130 million and world population doubled.

Food needs more than doubled.

Wood products needs about doubled.

Water needs for municipal use doubled—for manufacturing use quadrupled.

Outdoor recreation demand up 300 percent.

Irrigation withdrawals of water up 50 percent.

Land used for homes, schools, and factories up 200 percent.

Land used for reservoirs up 180 percent.

Land used for wildlife refuges up 133 percent.

Land used for transportation up 125 percent.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is convinced that:

- (1) The quality of America's total environment can be improved by harnessing technology to maintain and increase resource productivity and beauty without polluting air, water, or soil.
- (2) People on farms and ranches and in rural communities can and will more effectively to conserve resources and upgrade the quality of the environment if they are provided with encouragement, incentive, and help on parts of the job they cannot do themselves.
- (3) Population imbalances can be eased through the creation of a more attractive and productive countryside.
- (4) Rural prosperity can be improved by effective resource development, and rural poverty can be reduced by creating meaningful and productive employment in resource-based industries.
- (5) Growing leisure can be provided new, creative, and restorative outlets through resource development.
- (6) Pressures between have- and have-not nations can be reduced, despite the growth in world population.



USDA Responsibilities in Creative Conservation

Conservation today encompasses the full sweep of interrelated natural resources and their management and use. Use, restoration, and preservation of resources must be made compatible. Man is but one element of the ecological whole. Emerging now is a special challenge to fit his activities and needs harmoniously into the total environment. Forces and interactions constantly at work in natural-resource use must be understood and directed from the perspective of the unity involved—expressed by Gifford Pinchot as “the one great central problem of the use of the earth for the good of man.”

A narrow piecemeal approach of dealing with one resource, or one use, or one purpose at a time cannot provide lasting solutions. Nor can it build harmony into the dynamic ecological system that is man's total environment. Rather, through skillful coordination of uses and planned management of resources, we can and must reverse the downward trend in the quality and adequacy of the natural world in which we live.

Only through widespread positive actions designed to blend uses harmoniously can we protect and sustain our natural environment and produce optimum combinations of goods and services from the Nation's soils, forest, range, water, wildlife, and other resources.

The Department of Agriculture has a major responsibility for resource conservation leadership in America and in the world. USDA conservation programs are concerned with the quality and management of crops, range, livestock, soils, water, forests, wildlife, and scenic beauty.

All of the Agencies of USDA work together, complementing and supporting each other's efforts, in a total commitment to creative resource development, restoration, use, management, and conservation. Thus, USDA programs move with unified action and common objectives toward common goals.

Fast segments of our Nation's land area are served by these programs. For example:

- (1) Three-fourths of the Nation's land area is made up of privately owned tracts in rural areas, served by USDA programs.
- (2) One-third of our land is forested. Through cooperative forestry programs, National Forest administration, and forestry research, USDA has primary leadership responsibility.
- (3) Three-fifths of our land is in crops, pasture, range, or other nonforest agricultural use.
- (4) Almost all of the Nation's soils and watersheds are reached and benefited by USDA programs.
- (5) The bulk of the Nation's fish and wildlife habitat is likewise helped directly by these programs.
- (6) Outdoor recreation opportunities in rural areas are predominantly located in National Forests or other forest-related areas, or associated with farm, ranch, or other private enterprises in the agricultural field.
- (7) The bulk of the Nation's designated Wilderness Areas is administered by USDA.
- (8) The quality of the rural environment, including natural beauty, is a matter of direct USDA concern.



Evolving Policies and Conservation Goals

help the United States meet oncoming needs at home and abroad, USDA's conservation programs are being continually reshaped and strengthened:

To search out and promote the best scientific management techniques for meeting future resource needs efficiently without damage to the land or to the environment.

To extend the multiple-use concept of resource planning to all land resources to obtain the best possible patterns of planned resource use and rural development.

To develop our resource capacity sufficiently to assure abundant supplies of food and timber, as well as clean water, pure air, more outdoor recreation, and a more wholesome and beautiful environment.

To stimulate more effective local leadership in conservation through State and local governments, by soil and water conservation districts and other conservation groups, and by the owners of large and small timber holdings.

In view of current resource problems, USDA's evolving conservation policies and goals relate to the following major objectives:

Upgrading the quality of the environment.

Strengthening the economy and standards of living in rural America.

Helping to find solutions to America's water problems.

Obtaining greater benefits from our forest lands.

Providing creative opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Increasing public awareness and involvement in resource conservation.

Helping other nations solve their resource problems.

1. UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT. The Department of Agriculture intends that the rural environments provide greater opportunity for people to become creative and industrious. A people rich in natural resources and surrounded by natural beauty has every right to expect a quality of living commensurate with that richness.

USDA will direct attention to modifying resource use to avoid impairment of the environment and to repair damage already done. Thus, pure water, clean air, plentiful wildlife, natural beauty, and more productive forests, grasslands, and croplands will increasingly be among the standards that govern our activities. Instead of letting technology dictate the pattern of rural living, we intend to harness technology to enhance the quality of rural environment. We will fight blight and pollution in the countryside. Across the entire spectrum of human and material resources we will seek to enrich our farm and forest regions. Rural America can be synonymous with an environment for good living.

Natural resources comprise the basis for an environment in which the American people and the national culture must survive and improve. Nature knows no man-made boundary lines. Big cities are getting bigger, and so are their problems. USDA can assist cities in meeting their environmental problems through agriculture-based technical knowledge. Although an attractive countryside cannot be more than a partial answer to the need to upgrade the quality of man's environment, the space for growth is in rural America. Through conservation and development of natural resources, rural areas can be ideal sites for communities of tomorrow in which the desecration of natural beauty and the ill effects of urban sprawl will be unknown.

Therefore, it is USDA policy:

To assist in creating new opportunities to make agriculture and rural living more attractive and rewarding.

To cooperate with urban and rural agencies and organizations in working toward a better and more beautiful total environment for all.

To deal with soil, water, plants, and wildlife as interrelated resources.

To make every effort to combat the pollution of air, soil, and water, and all other factors contributing to the deterioration of man's environment.

To implement the foregoing policies, USDA will work toward the following goals:

Extending erosion control, landscaping, and enhancement of natural beauty as standards in the construction and maintenance of all roads and highways.

Accelerating research that will help achieve specific reductions in air and water pollution.

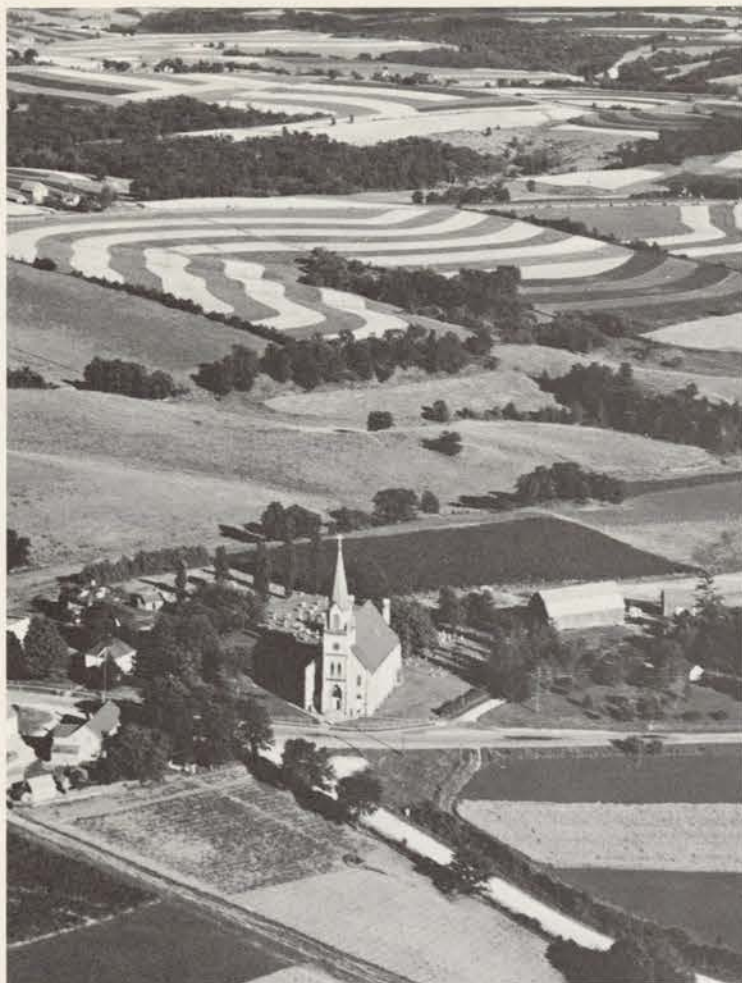
Making technical services and guidelines available to county and municipal governments to aid in proper site selection and erosion control in suburban construction.

Helping to rehabilitate old strip-mine scars and establishing conservation and land-restoration practices as standards in surface operations.

Achieving erosion control and reducing sediment damage the two-thirds of the privately owned lands not yet adequately treated.

Modifying, where necessary, resource use to prevent impairment of the environment.





2. STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY AND STANDARDS OF LIVING IN RURAL AMERICA. The American countryside, with its space and vast renewable resources, challenges the Department of Agriculture to move vigorously in bold new directions. We are ready to meet this challenge on many fronts.

Land owners and operators control use of natural resources in our democracy. USDA has the basic tools, the technology, the data, and the experience to help them in planning this use. Effective management must begin with each piece of rural land and must be based on knowledge of the specific needs and capability of each tract.

USDA will help rural areas share more fully in the benefits that they give to the Nation. We will strengthen and enlarge programs to stabilize soil, increase productivity, and reduce pollution. We will continue to seek new products from farm and forest to be processed by local industries.

Increasingly complex demands are being made upon all available resources by our dynamic society, resulting in rapid transformation of the rural countryside to accommodate dramatic national growth. We will seek to channel this growth into the jobs and economic stability so urgently needed in many rural areas. We expect to make full use of education, training, and work programs in promoting meaningful employment of the disadvantaged and rural poor in conservation programs and in resource-based industries.

Local initiative, combined with technical assistance and cooperation, is the key to assuring that rural resources contribute their full measure for the benefit of all the people.

Therefore, it is USDA policy:

To continue to encourage and assist land owners and operators in developing conservation plans adapted to appropriate uses of soil and water resources.

To help blend public and private lands in productive and efficient operational units.

To assist land owners and operators financially where necessary to encourage the installation of needed conservation measures.

To find and perfect through research those resource management techniques that will permit increased production without damage to the land resource.

To work through States and through local organizations, such as soil and water conservation districts, in assisting people who own and work and live on the land.

To help communities to become more stable through sustained yield management of natural resources, including those on National Forests.

To implement these policies, USDA will work toward the following goals:

Getting resource conservation firmly recognized and used as the cornerstone of rural community development.

Initiating a national rural fire defense program.

Establishing a continuous review, using computerized programs, of the availability of land, water, and forest resources to meet national needs.

Completing and publishing basic information on all the Nation's soils as a base for intelligent land use determinations.

Expanding employment opportunities and training the people needed to develop and utilize natural resources most effectively.

Initiating programs that organize forest resource production and use around model communities.

Developing interpretations of soil suitability for various uses and making these available for community development and for local, regional, and national planning.

Completing treatment and shaping of all the land suited for crops to reduce soil and water losses and accommodate modern machinery; and achieving maximum conservation on forest, range, and other noncultivated lands.

Maintaining or improving the productivity of crop, pasture, and range lands.

Relating all Federal land and water programs that involve cost-sharing and grant-in-aid to sound conservation plans.

3. HELP FIND SOLUTIONS TO AMERICA'S WATER PROBLEMS. Soil erosion is the most damaging factor in the degradation of the Nation's water resources. Yet, erosion is a problem that yields readily to present conservation knowledge. The lack of erosion control on road and highway rights-of-way is costly and often a hazard to public safety. Eroding streambanks and unstabilized strip-mine spoils produce pollutants that degrade water quality and blemish the countryside.

Experience has proved that most watershed problems are unique to local communities, and their solution must be achieved by project activities involving private and public investments. The project approach to watershed protection and development has proved to have the flexibility and effectiveness needed to meet problems of local communities. The National Forests as well as farm and ranch lands in private ownership are vital watersheds for the Nation.

Water conservation is essential to the economic productivity of any region. On a broad scale, river basin planning—an interdepartmental responsibility—has proved its worth in determining how the rising demands for water can be provided for by developing water and related land resources within a region. Watershed development, management, and protection and river basin planning are a major part of USDA responsibilities in conservation matters.

Therefore, it is USDA policy:

To plan for resource conservation and development on watersheds and river basins, as well as on individual properties.

To pursue aggressively, in cooperation with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, the development of planned watershed programs adequate to meet water needs to the year 2000 and beyond.

To help establish effective erosion-control measures on roads and highways and along stream channels, as well as on farm and forest lands.

To assist with the stabilization of strip-mine spoils and the prevention of acid drainage from deep mines.

To stimulate the adoption of appropriate watershed conservation measures wherever needed.

To expand and expedite watershed research and related studies.

To work with local leaders in adapting programs to community needs through soil and water conservation districts, resource conservation and development projects, grazing associations, drainage districts, and similar local groups.

To improve the hydrologic conditions on forest and range lands in the National Forest System as rapidly as possible and to recognize water needs in planning other resource uses.

To implement these policies, USDA will work toward the following goals:

Making water quality, as well as flood prevention and water supply, a purpose of all watershed programs.

Eliminating major flood threats in some 6,000 small watersheds.

Doubling water efficiency by improving irrigation techniques from water supply source to place of use.

Establishing standby irrigation systems for farms in the critical production areas of humid regions.

Eliminating sediment pollution from all streams and reservoirs, and from all National Forest lands.

Planning and developing all major river basins on an orderly basis in relation to the needs of all people.





4. OBTAIN GREATER BENEFITS FROM OUR FOREST LAND. The Nation could never have achieved greatness without the continuous and abundant supply of wood that has supported its efforts since the earliest times. The expanding economy will continue to need a dependable and sufficient supply of this versatile raw material. Without diminishing our potential to enjoy the forests for other uses, we need to take the steps necessary to assure adequate timber supplies for the years ahead. Because of the time required to produce timber crops, we must make special efforts now to get the Nation's forest land in shape to meet projected requirements for wood. Benefits from this productivity will extend from the rural areas that grow and process forest crops to the metropolitan centers that need these products for a thousand uses.

Therefore, it is USDA policy:

To produce enough timber to meet our expanding domestic needs in the year 2000 and beyond and to strengthen our economy through increased exports of forest products.

To intensify research programs that will support and advance the wise use of all forest and related resources throughout rural America.

To intensify protection, management, and development of National Forest System resources so they contribute fully to local and national economies as sources of water and timber for industry, as a base for tourism through recreation and wildlife, as grazing lands for livestock, and as esthetic actions.

To develop and expand cooperative forestry programs that will insure the protection, development, and management of privately owned forest lands at levels which will help meet the Nation's expanding needs for consumer products, contribute maximum benefits to people and communities, and create an environment enhanced by the beauty and stability of forested watersheds.

To evaluate periodically projected trends in the supply and demand for timber as a long-range planning service for the Nation.

To implement these policies, USDA will work toward the following goals:

Completing the basic development of the National Forest System, including roads and trails, and keeping additional development current with changing needs.

Rounding out the National Forest System through land purchase and exchange to provide more efficiently the public services and benefits that will be required.

Safeguarding rare and endangered species of animals, plants, and fish through habitat improvement and appropriate resource management practices in cooperation with State governments and other organizations.

Attaining optimum productivity on National Forest range-land and National Grasslands through rehabilitation, development, and intensive management.

Establishing a forest conservation program to help close the forecasted timber supply gap and meet other demands by increasing the rate of forestry accomplishment on private lands within the framework of multiple use management plans developed for each ownership.

Intensifying the protection of privately owned forest lands from fires, insects, and diseases to safeguard the multiple values of forests.

Increasing financial and technical assistance to the States for the production and distribution of genetically improved seed and tree seedlings.

Providing stepped-up forest products utilization and marketing assistance services to improve product quality, encourage fabrication of new products, and increase production and distribution efficiency thereby improving the relative position of forest products in the marketplace.

Establishing an urban forestry program designed to achieve maximum benefits from trees and shrubs in maintaining or improving the environment of cities and suburbs.

Developing a research capability sufficient to lead and support the full range of forestry activities throughout the Nation.

Expanding the dissemination of forestry research information to reduce the time lag in the application of research findings on private lands.

5. PROVIDE CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION. A primary function of USDA is to assist in developing more outdoor recreation enterprises in rural America through wise use of privately owned natural resources, risk capital, and initiative. To carry out this function adequately will require strengthening existing USDA programs through new authorization to extend research, technical, educational, and financial assistance commensurate with the increasing need for these services.

Forested America, especially, must continue to play a major role in furnishing outdoor recreation opportunities to meet the growing demands of an affluent, mobile, and active public. Natural beauty and wilderness are among the finest attractions of forest lands; the trees, meadows, and waters of the forest are the natural home of big game species, small mammals, birds, and fish. This habitat will be improved by our intensified efforts. We are going to provide for both variety and quantity of recreation activities on the National Forests and National Grasslands.

We will seek to guide recreation development of forest lands along sound lines, so that they will both serve the public and strengthen rural economies. We are going to promote appreciation of our natural wonders, so that people from the cities and from abroad will visit, admire, come to understand our great outdoor heritage, and help to maintain it.

Therefore, it is USDA policy:

To assure balance in outdoor recreation through comprehensive planning and development by the public and private sectors.

To supply technical and financial assistance and information to stimulate development of privately owned recreational resources on a profit-making basis and thus help meet the recreation needs of the community, State, and Nation.

To encourage private endeavor, individual initiative, and leadership among rural groups and organizations in the development of rural recreation enterprises to improve communities and enhance rural living.

To provide guidance and necessary assistance in conducting inventories of land, water, and related resources to determine their full potential for outdoor recreation development and to work with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in the comprehensive planning and followup needed to realize that potential.

To fully utilize National Forest resources in meeting recreational demands through multiple-use planning and management, coordination with the private sector, protection of wilderness values, and responsive facility development.

To work closely with State and Federal fish and game agencies in providing the habitat needed by fish and wildlife and to help meet increasing hunting and fishing pressures.

To implement these policies, USDA will work toward the following goals:

Assisting in the development of widespread recreation opportunities on farm and ranch lands, and adequately cataloging and publicizing them.

Seeking establishment of recreational developments in connection with each watershed project carried out with public assistance.

Completing establishment of the National Forest portion of the National Wilderness Preservation System at the earliest feasible date.

Tripling the present "persons at one time" capacity of the National Forest System's recreation facilities to keep pace with the upward trend of recreation use.

On the National Forests, providing major segments of the proposed Scenic Rivers, National Trail System, Scenic Highways, and related programs designed to enhance the cultural and esthetic values of the land.





6. EXPAND PUBLIC AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN RESOURCE CONSERVATION. Our land and water remain constant while our population and its needs multiply. As the per capita share declines, each body of water and each renewable resource must be used for more than one purpose—and must not be destroyed. We are reaching the point in time when planning the use of all resources becomes an imperative need. An urgent task now is to identify the land that can best produce our food and fiber and meet other needs with the highest degree of efficiency.

Public concern with resource conservation is increasing. This calls for intensified conservation planning at each level of government to better protect the productive land base and to improve all soil, water, forest, range, and related resources. In doing this, attention will be directed to the needs of the American people for an enhanced natural environment.

Responsibility for the wise use of resources is a part of the heritage that reposes with each new generation. Acceptance of this responsibility by a knowledgeable and capable public is a continuing need in the interest of the public welfare and security.

Therefore, it is USDA policy:

To create opportunities for personal involvement in conservation.

To help Americans achieve greater benefits from their resources by helping them put their land to the combination of uses for which it is best suited.

To encourage the application of scientific information in making intelligent and effective land use decisions.

To encourage public discussion of legislative and administrative improvements at all government levels to speed conservation accomplishments.

To encourage State and local governments to take an increasingly active role in conservation assistance programs.

To encourage and assist all elements of the Nation's educational system in teaching conservation principles as an integral part of good citizenship.

To implement these policies, USDA will work toward the following goals:

Making resource conservation education an integral part of all elementary and secondary school curricula.

Developing a public awareness of conservation needs sufficient to achieve individual involvement by all Americans.

Establishing conservation showcases in each State, for purposes of conservation education.

Establishing outdoor conservation classrooms in selected Ranger Districts throughout the National Forest System.

Publicizing more widely facts about the land and current conservation needs.

Providing soils information in every community to help public agencies determine desirable land use.

Developing through appropriate State and private organizations an awareness of the need for greater financial participation in conservation programs by State and local government.

7. HELP OTHER NATIONS SOLVE THEIR RESOURCE PROBLEMS. Through the work of the Department of Agriculture, the United States has become the acknowledged world leader in agriculture. In the face of rising world populations and the problems of developing nations, we have an obligation to share both our knowledge and abundance to prevent human suffering. Our ultimate objective is to help every nation better meet its needs for food. We will redouble our efforts to extend technical assistance to those nations that can and will intensify and redirect their own efforts. The conservation of renewable natural resources, the stabilization of soil, the development of water supplies, and the improvement of nature's bounty, all are building blocks toward national stability and international peace. We will use new knowledge and new efforts to unite the world.

Therefore, it is USDA policy:

To provide competent technical personnel and leadership to help developing nations by sharing our experience and knowledge in the field of natural resource development and management.

To implement this policy, USDA will work toward the following goals:

Providing a continuing corps of specially trained professional leaders to furnish technical assistance to other countries.

Establishing an International Institute of Agriculture and Forestry.



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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS) focuses many scientific disciplines on solving the problems of conserving this Nation's resources. This research encompasses soil and water and the total environment in which we live and work and play.

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE (ASCS) administers programs designed to adjust resource use to avoid unneeded production while assuring adequate supplies of food and fiber; shares with farmers the cost of establishing needed soil, water, forest, and wildlife conservation practices; and, through Greenspan, helps local governments to acquire cropland for open space, natural beauty, wildlife habitat, recreation, and prevention of pollution.

COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH SERVICE (CSRS) works with State agricultural experiment stations to conduct research on all facets of natural resources conservation. The broad objectives are to develop, conserve, and use renewable resources for the best interests of the public in accord with present and future needs.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS) studies the economic use of land and water resources, the impact of urban and industrial expansion on agriculture, land tenure problems, and legal-economic aspects of land and water use. ERS conducts research to help formulate comprehensive river basin plans and programs; watershed planning, development, and management programs; and resource conservation projects.

FARMER COOPERATIVE SERVICE (FCS) helps rural people develop cooperative forestry and recreation enterprises and thus add to their incomes. FCS prepares special publications, sponsors and participates in workshops, and gives specific help to many groups who use or are considering using cooperatives to conserve resources and improve their own living.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION (FHA) provides supervised credit to farmers to help them to use conservation practices and bring about needed shifts in land use. FHA also provides financial help to rural communities to develop modern water and waste disposal systems and to make comprehensive plans for these types of community facilities. Credit is also extended to farmers and groups of rural people to develop land and water resources into recreation areas.

FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE and STATE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICES (FES and CES) conduct educational programs for rural people on the needs for and techniques of natural resource management; provide educational support to government agencies whose programs are aimed at environmental improvement; and encourage and assist rural communities, civic groups, and other citizen committees to include projects in their programs that will enable ours and succeeding generations to enhance their environment and obtain maximum benefits from it.

FOREST SERVICE (FS) carries on three major conservation programs—broad-scale forestry research, cooperative assistance to States and private forest owners, and management and development of 187 million acres of National Forests and National Grasslands.

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (IADS) coordinates USDA's efforts in the War on Hunger. Conservation of natural resources is an essential weapon in helping the world's farmers to grow more food. USDA technicians work in more than a dozen countries, providing technical help on resource development, conservation, and use. Each year, almost 100 agriculturists from developing countries study conservation in USDA. These international conservation programs are sponsored by the Agency for International Development.

RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (RCDS) works with all Federal Conservation Agencies at the national level to see that rural people get the help they need to plan and apply sound conservation practices.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION (REA) makes loans to cooperatives and other organizations to provide rural electric and telephone service. These services are essential to efficient farming and to the economic and social improvement of rural life. Electricity for pressure water systems permits more efficient water use while preserving and protecting water resources. Rural electric and telephone services make rural recreation facilities more attractive.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE (SCS) is the technical action arm of USDA for soil and water conservation on privately owned lands. Working principally through locally organized soil and water conservation districts, SCS provides to individual landowners, groups, and communities basic resource data and on-the-land services to help solve land and water problems associated with agriculture, outdoor recreation, rural areas development, and rural-urban fringe transition.