



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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REVISED CIRCULAR

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GENERAL MANUAL (GM)
190 - ECS
Circular No. 2, Part 410, (Subpart A)

SUBJECT: ECS – Form NRCS-CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet

Purpose. To instruct State Conservationists (STCs) and Directors of the Caribbean and Pacific Island Areas that effective immediately when developing a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) the NRCS-CPA-52 (CPA-52), Environmental Evaluation (EE) worksheet, must be completed and signed by a Natural Resources Conservation Service employee and may no longer be completed by third-party technical service providers (TSPs).

Effective Date. This Circular is effective upon receipt.

Background. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) authorizes Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance funds to be used to develop CAPs. NRCS has established 16 CAPs that STCs and Directors of the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas may select for use in their State or Territory. 2010 policy required TSPs to complete the CPA-52 worksheet for any CAP plan developed. Due to State and TSP concerns over development and the adequacy of analysis of the CPA-52 for CAPs, the policy for 2011 has been revised.

Policy. According to NRCS regulation 7 CFR Part 650 on implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EE is required for all technical and financial assistance, even when the assistance is only for development of a plan. As such, development of a CAP requires the CPA-52 EE worksheet, be prepared to document the environmental impacts and the official finding of NRCS for NEPA compliance.

Effective October 1, the policy for 2011 has been revised to reflect that TSPs are no longer required to develop or prepare a CPA-52 worksheet for CAPs. NRCS is to prepare and complete the entire CPA-52 worksheet for CAPs. All other programs (e.g. CIG grant applicants, TSPs used in routine TA) remain unaffected by this policy and, thereby, a State may choose to allow an outside entity to prepare Sections A through P of the 2010 National CPA-52 form if the State so chooses to do so.

Contact. Questions should be directed to the National Environmental Coordinator at (202) 720-4925 or by e-mail at matt.harrington@wdc.usda.gov or the TSP Team Leader at (202) 720-6731 or by e-mail at angel.figueroa@wdc.usda.gov.

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