

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOR CONSERVATION PLANS AND AREAWIDE CONSERVATION PLANS (NRCS-CPA-52)

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

NRCS provides assistance to protect, maintain, and improve soil, water, air, plants, animals, and human resources. Social and cultural considerations are a part of this assistance. Social evaluations are conducted by the NRCS to meet the requirements of the law, executive orders, administrative decisions, and directives.

Social evaluation attempts to identify the effects, both positive and negative, of specific practices in a conservation management system on the quality of life and social well being. Social evaluation provides a basis for minimizing adverse effects and maximizing beneficial effects during the planning of a conservation management system.

In order to do a social evaluation of a practice or conservation management system (CMS) the planner must first identify the significant social variables that pertain to the activity. Be aware that as more information becomes available, social variables may change. All social variables should be monitored throughout the conservation planning process. The following list breaks down social variables into 15 categories that should be monitored to answer considerations on the NRCS-CPA-52:

- 1) Population Dynamics – size, structure (age & sex), trends, migration, distribution (racial & ethnic), etc.
- 2) Economic Base – number of businesses/farms, trends, local tax base, values of production, etc.
- 3) Income – income dispersion, sources of income, income levels of low-income households, income levels of minority households, etc.
- 4) Labor and Employment – labor force characteristics, unemployment rate, skilled/unskilled labor force, job stability, accessibility of work, etc.
- 5) Social Service and Public Assistance – population under poverty level, social services personnel, funds to county, etc.
- 6) Educational Opportunities – availability of educational services, enrollment, diversity of educational programs, educational characteristics of population, etc.
- 7) Industrial Base – agricultural land market value, acres in production, acres of agricultural land lost to other uses, industry sites available, etc.
- 8) Transportation – facilities (airstrips, roads, water, railroads, etc.), travel route difficulty, adequacy of public transportation, etc.
- 9) Local Government and Community Services – local tax base, number of local government employees, urban renewal activities, number of families served by community services, etc.
- 10) Health, Life Protection, and Safety – mortality, risk of life and/or property damage, adequacy of medical facilities and personnel, quality of medical care, potential for natural disaster, etc.
- 11) Housing – construction trends, housing quality, potential for new dwellings, median value of dwelling units, etc.
- 12) Recreational Opportunities – adequacy of recreation facilities, recreational participation, special access (elderly, handicapped, etc.), etc.
- 13) Community Organizations and Local Leadership – religious resources, social/fraternal organizations, major voluntary community activities, active community leaders, civic organizations, farm organizations, minority organizations, etc.
- 14) Communications and Media – media market, media availability, etc.
- 15) Social, Cultural, and Psychological Characteristics – basic values, satisfaction with quality of life, historical sites, attitude toward cultural resources, attitudes toward conservation, etc.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOR CONSERVATION PLANS AND
AREAWIDE CONSERVATION PLANS (NRCS-CPA-52)**

**SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS
KANSAS HELP SHEET**

In order to determine the social effects, consider the following questions when filling out the NRCS-CPA-52. **If you answer yes to any of these questions, further review or explanation may be necessary.** When the answer is no, no further data is needed, and the decision is noted in the planning support file.

CLIENT WELL-BEING	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
• Are farmer attitudes toward certain conservation practices likely to affect the success of the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will there be a change in the quality of life, lifestyle, attitude, and/or behavior?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will social, family, or religious values be affected?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Are farm residents likely to be affected negatively by the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Are there typical or unique characteristics of farms that may have relevance to the activity (absentee landowners, land use ethic, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Some characteristics (age, planning horizons, special emphasis groups, resources, etc.) are not considered during planning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will change negatively affect the client's ownership/lease of the land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will client tenure affect installation and management of the conservation system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is time available (absentee or part-time landowner, etc.) for installation and management of the conservation system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 COMMUNITY WELL-BEING	 <u>YES</u>	 <u>NO</u>
• Are people likely to be adversely affected by the activity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will there be an effect on life, health, and/or safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Local community standards regarding health and safety were not followed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Are there historical factors that are likely to be relevant in the proposed activity (changes in land use, farm management techniques, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING (con't)	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
• Are there communities in the study area that would be affected adversely by the proposed activity (loss of recreation, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Are there community organizations, church groups, etc. that would be adversely affected by the proposed activity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Are there potential areas of conflict?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will community cohesion and/or stability be affected negatively?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will this change affect just some individuals and/or groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will this change create inequity among individuals and/or groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	 <u>YES</u>	 <u>NO</u>
• The program, procedure, or activity carried out has disproportionate adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered yes to any question, enter explanations in the Effects Notes section of the NRCS-CPA-52 or at the bottom of this page and attach to the NRCS-CPA-52.