

APPENDIX D

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Appendix D-1
Appendix D-2

CPA 52 Environmental Evaluation
Farmland Conversion Impact Rating

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service		NRCS-CPA-52 11/2019		A. Client Name: Park River Joint Water Resource District			
ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET				B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Program Authority (optional):			
				C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):			
D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): Reduce flood damages to cropland for a 10-year flood, increase flood resiliency to public and private infrastructure, increase flood resiliency to Crystal, ND for the 100-year flood, consistency with international plans, and provide additional upland/wetland prairie habitat.							
E. Need for Action: Frequent flood damages to area residents and businesses. Limited habitat in the planning area. Changes to		H. Alternatives					
		No Action <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS		Alternative 1 <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS		Alternative 2 <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS	
		No change from the existing conditions. Current flood conditions and amount of available habitat.		Practices to be installed are Dam (402). Diversion (362) Structure for Water Control (587) Lined Waterway (468) Critical Area Treatment (472) other potential practices are Tree Planting 612, Upland and Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644 and 645) and Range Planting (550) An off channel dam would be constructed around three sides of a section. The dam would provide 2,593 acre-feet of flood storage from a 33 square mile drainage area. Inlet channels would be excavated to bring runoff into the site, and designed to restore hydrology to historic sloped wetlands within the flood pool. A mixed upland/wetland habitat would be created within the flood pool. To maintain nutrient removal capacity over time, the O&M Plan and final		N/A	
Resource Concerns							
In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).							
F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)		I. Effects of Alternatives					
		No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
		Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC
SOIL							
Compaction		No change from existing conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary and permanent compaction will occur during construction of the dam and inlet channels. Construction extents will be limited to minimize impacts to adjacent areas. Topsoil will be prepared prior to seeding to loosen topsoil.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Compaction will occur during construction phase			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels		No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minimal changes from the existing condition. Minor benefits may occur due to reduced peak flows downstream of the alternative.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Bank erosion occurs within the Cart Creek, resulting in a degrading channel and deposition further downstream			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Sheet and rill erosion		No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change to field erosion. Temporary impacts during construction expected to be mitigated through stormwater BMPs. Long term reduction in TSS downstream of the Alternative, some of which is coming from upstream field erosion.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Field erosion throughout the watershed.			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Organic matter depletion		No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeding cropland to mixed prairie vegetation will increase organic matter and subsequent benefits of increased infiltration over time.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Conventionally tilled cropland will continue declining organic matter trend			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Concentration of salts or other chemicals		No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seeding cropland to deep rooted mixed prairie vegetation will improve soil EC levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Conventionally tilled cropland will does not lower salt levels in soil.			NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
WATER							
Ponding and flooding		No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce peak flows and inundation extents downstream of alternative. For reference, the 10-year and 100-	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Extensive flood damages to crop			NOT		NOT		NOT

land, rural infrastructure, and the community of Crystal, ND.		NOT meet PC	year peak flow rates are reduced by 20.4% and 28.2%, respectively at Crystal, ND.	NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Wetlands	No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impacts to 37.8 acres of wetlands due to excavation and embankment construction. Increased wetland function because of restored wetland surface hydrology. Restoration of 71.5 acres of wetlands through closing a subsurface perforated pattern tile system.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Drain tile has removed hydrology from approximately 150 acres of the parcel. Natural surface water flow through the parcel has been obstructed by diking and surface drains.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

<p>Nutrients transported to surface water</p> <p>86th Street NE: •780 lbs/year TP Loading. •5,140 lbs/yr TN Loading.</p> <p>North Branch Outlet: •8,900 lbs/yr TP Loading. •37,200 lbs/yr TN Loading.</p>	<p>No change from the existing condition.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>	<p>86th Street NE: •380 lbs/year TP Loading. •3,040 lbs/yr TN Loading.</p> <p>North Branch Outlet: •8,440 lbs/year TP Loading. •36,360 lbs/yr TN Loading.</p> <p>Temporary impacts during construction will be mitigated through stormwater management BMPs.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>
<p>Sediment transported to surface water</p> <p>86th Street NE: •373 tons/yr TSS Loading.</p> <p>North Branch Outlet: •5,298 tons/yr TSS Loading</p>	<p>No change from the existing condition.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>	<p>86th Street NE: •144 tons/yr TSS Loading.</p> <p>North Branch Outlet: •4,985 tons/yr TSS Loading.</p> <p>Temporary impacts during construction will be mitigated through stormwater management BMPs.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>
<p>International Water Management Concerns</p> <p>Widespread flood damages along the Red River mainstem.</p> <p>Increased TP loading to Lake Winnipeg is causing eutrophication.</p>	<p>No change from the existing condition.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>	<p>Furtherance of internationally agreed to flood damage reduction objectives by storing flood water to reduce Park River tributary contributions to the Red River.</p> <p>Furtherance of internationally agreed to water quality objectives to reduce phosphorus loading by 50% at the international border.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. (continued)					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC
AIR						
No resource concern identified		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
PLANTS						
Invasive Species	No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Precautions during construction to limit transport of invasives. Vegetation establishment plan will include removal of invasives.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Canada Thistle and Kochia are present in the Alternative 1 footprint.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Plant structure and composition	No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approximately 314 acres of cropland will be converted to mixed prairie vegetation, improving species diversity.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Approximately 315 acres of parcel is annually cropped.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
ANIMALS						
Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approximately 314 acres of cropland will be converted to mixed prairie vegetation, significantly increasing wildlife habitat.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Approximately 315 acres of parcel is annually cropped.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms	No change from the existing condition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	On-channel control structure placed on the Cart Creek to divert flows into the flood pool. Negligible changes downstream given that bankfull flows will remain in the natural channel.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing habitat available in Cart Creek is currently degraded due to reduced floodplain connection.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
ENERGY						
No resource concern identified		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Human Economic and Social Considerations						
Public Health and Safety	No change from the existing condition.		The frequency of flooding downstream of the Alternative would be reduced, including the community of Crystal, ND. Added public safety concerns because of failure risk of a constructed dam.			
Flooding disrupts public welfare due to limited access from flooding roads, inundated inhabited structures, and commerce disruptions.						
Land Use	No change from the existing condition.		Crop land downstream of the alternative would see enhanced production due to reduced flooding. The flood pool would create 560 acres of mixed upland/wetland wildlife habitat that is currently limited in the planning area.			
Current landuse is predominantly agriculture/crop production.						
Other	No progress toward internationally agreed to water quality and quantity targets.		Demonstrated commitment to internationally agreed to water quality and quantity targets.			
International Concerns						

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. Items with a "•" may require a federal permit or consultation/coordination between the lead agency and another government agency. In these cases, effects may need to be determined in consultation with another agency. Planning and practice implementation may proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act <i>Guide Sheet</i> North Dakota has no non-attainment areas.	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet</i> 473.6-acres of wetlands within project site.	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Minimization of impacts was attempted during alternative development, and resulted in 33.7-acres of permanent impact. 17.8-acres are permanently impacted due to excavation within wetland boundaries. 15.9-acres permanently impacted due to fill placement within wetland boundaries. Mitigation on site will be used to replace permanent impacts by restoration of 71.5-acres of wetlands. 404 permit will be necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Coastal Zone Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> Not applicable to North Dakota	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Coral Reefs <i>Guide Sheet</i> Not applicable to North Dakota	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties <i>Guide Sheet</i>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Class III Cultural Resource Survey dated 6/22/2020 found no cultural resource concerns to delay the undertaking. Farmhouse artifact scatter should be left in situ.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Endangered and Threatened Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> The USFWS lists the Northern Long-eared Bat (Threatened) and Whooping Crane (Endangered) within the project area.	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Critical habitats are not expected to be disturbed through construction. No trees are present on site. Contractors will follow the Conditions for Implementing Conservation Practices for Whooping Cranes.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice <i>Guide Sheet</i>	No Effect The planning area does not have elevated levels of minority and low-income populations relative to neighboring counties or the State.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect The planning area does not have elevated levels of minority and low-income populations relative to neighboring counties or the State.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet</i> No essential fish habitat in the planning area.	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplain Management <i>Guide Sheet</i>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect There would be an overall decrease of land flooded during the 100-year event.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense) and Kochia (Kochia scoparia) are present on the site	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect During on-site vegetation establishment, it will be noted that these species were on-site, and this Alternative will attempt to remove these species from the site by weed control prior to, during and post-construction. With the use of precautionary measures, no effect is anticipated with these invasive species.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <i>Guide Sheet</i>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect No habitat disruptions during construction due to no disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

			of trees during construction.		
Natural Areas Guide Sheet No designated Natural Areas within the planning area.	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect The project will convert 97.2-acres of prime farmland to perennial vegetation within the project site. Another 185.2 acres designated as "prime farmland if drained" will be converted to perennial vegetation within the project site. Inundation of downstream farmland will be reduced by 5% - 8%, which also includes farmland of statewide significance, prime farmland, and prime farmland if drained designations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Riparian area within the APE	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect There are limited riparian areas directly within the project footprint, so only limited direct, short-term effects are anticipated. Over the long-term, negligible impacts are anticipated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>•Wetlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> The project site has a mix up filled and non-filled wetlands totaling 437.6-acres.</p>	No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>
			33.7-acres are impacted due to placement of fill and excavation. 71.5-acres of slope wetlands will be restored to offset impacts. Overall the site will have more acres of wetlands at a higher functional value.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>•Wild and Scenic Rivers <i>Guide Sheet</i> No Wild and Scenic Rivers in the planning area</p>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action		Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.			Required: Dam Construction Permit from ND SWC, USACE 404 Permit, ND DEQ Construction NPDES Permit. Likely: ND SWC Water Use Permit, Pembina County Emergency Management FEMA permit.	
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)	No past, present, or reasonably foreseeable project that would result in cumulative impacts were identified for this project.		While the project is consistent with regional objectives related to flood damage reduction and water quality improvements, these objectives are assigned to assist local sponsors in ensuring consideration to reasonable measures to attain such objectives are considered. Alternative 2 provides an opportunity for implementation of reasonable measures consistent with regional objectives are taken in a multipurpose project to achieve locally desired conditions.	
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)			Self-Mitigating unavoidable wetland impacts. 33.7-acres of wetlands are impacted, and will be offset by restoration of 71.5-acres of higher functional value.	
M. Preferred Alternative	<input type="checkbox"/> preferred alternative <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting reason	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<p>The project meets the purpose and need. Flood damages are reduced along the Cart Creek and North Branch, Water Quality is improved, and wildlife habitat is created.</p> <p>The project also provides an opportunity to demonstrate commitment to internationally determined water quality and flood damage reduction goals related to nutrient reduction and reduced flood flows, respectively.</p>	
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)				
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.				
O. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:				
In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.				
<input type="text"/> Signature (TSP if applicable)		<input type="text"/> Title		<input type="text"/> Date
Digitally signed by TODD SCHWAGLER TODD SCHWAGLER Date: 2020.07.02 13:56:09 -05'00' Signature (NRCS)		<input type="text"/> Title		<input type="text"/> Date
If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.				
The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)				
NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.				
P. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances				
To answer the questions below, consider the severity (intensity) of impacts in the contexts identified above. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.				
If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary				

Circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.		
Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request			
Name of Project		Federal Agency Involved			
Proposed Land Use		County and State			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:	
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %		
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS		
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site					
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)					
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)			
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160			
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100			
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160			
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260			
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
Reason For Selection:					
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:					Date:

(See Instructions on reverse side)

STEPS IN THE PROCESSING THE FARMLAND AND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

- Step 1 - Federal agencies (or Federally funded projects) involved in proposed projects that may convert farmland, as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) to nonagricultural uses, will initially complete Parts I and III of the form. For Corridor type projects, the Federal agency shall use form NRCS-CPA-106 in place of form AD-1006. The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) process may also be accessed by visiting the FPPA website, <http://fppa.nrcs.usda.gov/lesa/>.
- Step 2 - Originator (Federal Agency) will send one original copy of the form together with appropriate scaled maps indicating location(s) of project site(s), to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) local Field Office or USDA Service Center and retain a copy for their files. (NRCS has offices in most counties in the U.S. The USDA Office Information Locator may be found at http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndISAPI.dll/oip_public/USA_map, or the offices can usually be found in the Phone Book under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture. A list of field offices is available from the NRCS State Conservationist and State Office in each State.)
- Step 3 - NRCS will, within 10 working days after receipt of the completed form, make a determination as to whether the site(s) of the proposed project contains prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland. (When a site visit or land evaluation system design is needed, NRCS will respond within 30 working days.
- Step 4 - For sites where farmland covered by the FPPA will be converted by the proposed project, NRCS will complete Parts II, IV and V of the form.
- Step 5 - NRCS will return the original copy of the form to the Federal agency involved in the project, and retain a file copy for NRCS records.
- Step 6 - The Federal agency involved in the proposed project will complete Parts VI and VII of the form and return the form with the final selected site to the servicing NRCS office.
- Step 7 - The Federal agency providing financial or technical assistance to the proposed project will make a determination as to whether the proposed conversion is consistent with the FPPA.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING FORM

(For Federal Agency)

Part I: When completing the "County and State" questions, list all the local governments that are responsible for local land use controls where site(s) are to be evaluated.

Part III: When completing item B (Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly), include the following:

1. Acres not being directly converted but that would no longer be capable of being farmed after the conversion, because the conversion would restrict access to them or other major change in the ability to use the land for agriculture.
2. Acres planned to receive services from an infrastructure project as indicated in the project justification (e.g. highways, utilities planned build out capacity) that will cause a direct conversion.

Part VI: Do not complete Part VI using the standard format if a State or Local site assessment is used. With local and NRCS assistance, use the local Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA).

1. Assign the maximum points for each site assessment criterion as shown in § 658.5(b) of CFR. In cases of corridor-type project such as transportation, power line and flood control, criteria #5 and #6 will not apply and will, be weighted zero, however, criterion #8 will be weighed a maximum of 25 points and criterion #11 a maximum of 25 points.
2. Federal agencies may assign relative weights among the 12 site assessment criteria other than those shown on the FPPA rule after submitting individual agency FPPA policy for review and comment to NRCS. In all cases where other weights are assigned, relative adjustments must be made to maintain the maximum total points at 160. For project sites where the total points equal or exceed 160, consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could reduce adverse impacts (e.g. Alternative Sites, Modifications or Mitigation).

Part VII: In computing the "Total Site Assessment Points" where a State or local site assessment is used and the total maximum number of points is other than 160, convert the site assessment points to a base of 160.

Example: if the Site Assessment maximum is 200 points, and the alternative Site "A" is rated 180 points:

$$\frac{\text{Total points assigned Site A}}{\text{Maximum points possible}} = \frac{180}{200} \times 160 = 144 \text{ points for Site A}$$

For assistance in completing this form or FPPA process, contact the local NRCS Field Office or USDA Service Center.

NRCS employees, consult the FPPA Manual and/or policy for additional instructions to complete the AD-1006 form.