U.S. Department of Agriculture — NRCS-CPA-52

Natural Resources Conservation Service — April 2013

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

A. Client Name:

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional):

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc as required):

D. Client Objective(s) (purpose):

Step 2

E. Need for Action:

Step 1

H. Alternatives

No Action	√ if RMS ☐	Alternative 1	√ if RMS ☐	Alternative 2	√ if RMS ☐

Step 5

Resource Concerns

In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resource 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 — Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	√ if Not RMS PC	Alternative 1 — Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	√ if Not RMS PC	Alternative 2 — Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	√ if Not RMS PC
SOIL: EROSION						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
WATER: EXCESS/INSUFFICIENT WATER						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC

Steps 3 & 4

Step 6

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 (Document both short and long term impacts)	☐ Not meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	☐ Not meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	☐ Not meet PC
AIR: *AIR QUALITY IMPACTS*						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
PLANTS: *DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION*						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
ANIMALS: *INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE*						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
ANIMALS: *LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION*						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
ENERGY: *INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE*						
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC		☐ Not meet PC
HUMAN: *ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS*						

Steps 3 & 4

Step 6

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	
	Documental Impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if need further action	Documental Impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if need further action	Documental Impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if need further action
Clean Air Act Guide Sheet FS1 FS2		☐		☐		☐
Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Migratory Birds / Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Riparian Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐

Steps 3 & 4

Step 6

▸Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
▸Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet		☐		☐		☐
K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
Comments, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.						
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)						
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)						
M. Preferred Alternative	Preferred alternative	☐		☐		☐
	Supporting reason					

Step 7

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. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances

Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. 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 question "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	
☐	☐	▪ Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
☐	☐	▪ 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?
☐	☐	▪ Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
☐	☐	▪ Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
☐	☐	▪ Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
☐	☐	▪ 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?
☐	☐	▪ 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.
☐	☐	▪ Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

P. 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.

Signature (TSP if applicable)	Title	Date
Signature (NRCS)	Title	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.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:		Action required
☐	1) Is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
☐	2) Is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O".	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
☐	3) Is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
☐	4) Is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS. NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for filing. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
☐	5) Is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply)	
7 CFR Part 650 Compliance with NEPA, subpart 650.6 Categorical Exclusions states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six a deboard criteria. See NECH 610.7.18.	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:

Step 7

Signature	Title	Date

Additional notes