

PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTING WATERSHED PLANNING STARTS

General Procedure

First, determine which watershed planning requests are eligible. Then determine which watersheds are high priority. The next step is to rank each request according to national priorities for the watershed program.

Determination of Eligibility (Delegated to NTC's)

To be eligible, a proposal should meet or exceed the following three items:

1. The Preauthorization Planning (PAP) Report meets National Watersheds Manual (NWSM) minimum requirement of:
 - (a) NWSM §502.33(b) ". . . display such things as: problems; alternatives . . . estimated cost; and adverse and beneficial effects" and
 - (b) NWSM §502.40(a) ". . . enough detailed planning should have been conducted to ensure that a viable plan can be developed"
2. The PAP Report ensures that a strong local sponsorship exists that will accept responsibilities for financial support of the selected plan.
3. Include an updated plan of work providing information required in NWSM §502.41.

Determination of High Priority Watersheds

If a watershed meets any of the following three criteria, the watershed is considered to be a high priority watershed.

Criteria 1. Median erosion over the crop, range, pasture, and woodland areas to be treated in the watershed exceeds twice the true maximum rate of annual soil erosion that may occur and still permit continued productivity on the land, and the magnitude of the problem is greater than that which can be addressed by ongoing programs.

Criteria 2. Average annual damages to crop and pasture exceed \$25 per acre; damages to rural communities exceed \$1,000 per business or residential property; and the magnitude of the problem is greater than that which can be addressed by state and local entities.

Criteria 3. Annual groundwater or oversubscribed streamflow shortages occur 5 out of 10 years; opportunity exists to improve onfarm water use distribution system efficiencies for sustaining agricultural production and any beneficial use of water saved is used to sustain agricultural production, meet international commitments, reduce loss of agricultural production, or meet other agricultural, fish and wildlife, or M&I uses; and the magnitude of the problem is greater than that which can be addressed with ongoing programs.

Ranking According to National Conservation Program Priorities and Concerns

The ranking of each eligible request for a planning start will be as follows. (The ranking within each category is based upon the severity of the problem. The addition of a noncost-share purpose; i.e., M&I water, will not adversely affect the ranking.)

1. High priority multiple-purpose watersheds where purposes include only soil conservation, flood prevention, and water conservation.
2. High priority single-purpose flood prevention watersheds—including rural communities.
3. High priority single-purpose soil conservation watersheds.
4. High priority single-purpose water conservation watersheds.
5. Other multiple-purpose watersheds where purposes include only soil conservation, flood prevention, and water conservation.
6. Other single-purpose flood prevention watersheds, including urban projects with a federal cost of less than \$5 million and the source of the problem is runoff from agricultural lands.
7. Other single-purpose water conservation watersheds justified on the basis of offsite public benefits.
8. Multiple-purpose watersheds that have one or more NCP priority purposes along with additional federal cost sharing for:
 - (a) agricultural related pollution (water quality), and
 - (b) fish and wildlife.
9. Agricultural related pollution (water quality) watersheds.
10. Other single-purpose soil conservation watersheds.
11. Multiple-purpose watersheds that have one or more high priority purposes along with additional federal cost sharing for:
 - (a) Drainage (where drainage is justified for purposes other than increased production of surplus crops).
 - (b) Recreation (not to exceed 15 percent of project costs).
 - (c) Irrigation (where irrigation is justified for purposes other than increased production of surplus crops).
12. Other purposes: irrigation rehabilitation and/or increased water supply, single-purpose drainage, other agricultural water management (livestock water supply), water quality management (stream flow augmentation), and energy.
13. Urban flood control projects with a federal cost of more than \$5 million.

Current

Levels of Plan Approval

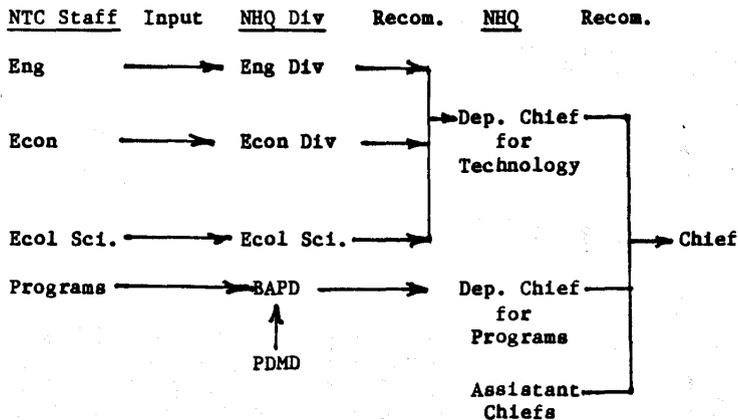
- <\$1 million - STC
- Up to \$5 million - NTC
- Secretarial Exception - Chief
- >\$5 million or 2,500 AF - Congress

Criteria for Delegation

- (1) Availability of technical specialists needed to formulate and evaluate watershed protection and water resource projects.
- (2) Demonstrated ability of technical staff to meet technical requirements in the formulation and evaluation of a project.
- (3) Past performance as measured by the quality of previously written plan-EIS's as compared with the standards set forth in Part 508 of the NWSM and the principles and guidelines.

Process for Arriving at Delegation

In March input obtained from NTC counterparts to each National Headquarters Division who return make recommendations to deputy chiefs. Deputy Chiefs along with Assistant Chiefs decide on final recommendations to Chief. Preliminary decision is made by Chief in early May with appeals made and decisions made by October 1.



Proposed

Levels of Plan Approval

- Up to \$2 million - STC
- Up to \$5 million - STC with NTC Tech. Conc.
- Secretarial Exception - Chief
- >\$5 million or 2,500 AF - Congress

NOTE:

NTC would have no delegated authority. However, technical authority would rest entirely with NTC. For up to \$5 million, STC must have technical concurrence from NTC for those projects for which authority has not been delegated (i.e. from \$1 or \$2 to \$5 million)

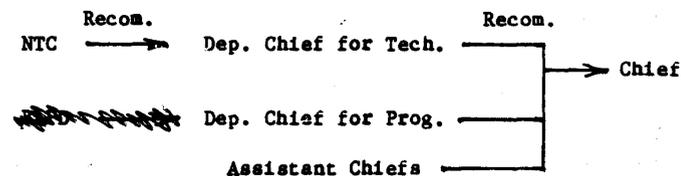
Criteria for Delegation

Same criteria

Process for Arriving at Delegation

In March the NTC Director and his staff would make their recommendations to the Deputy Chief for Technology. BAPD would make recommendations to the Deputy Chief for Programs. The two deputy chiefs along with the assistant chiefs would then make a recommendation to the Chief. The appeals process would not change. An option would be for the NTC to recommend directly to Deputy Chief for Technology who would return make a recommendation to the Chief.

Option 1



Option 2



Example Table: Incremental Analysis for Treatment Unit #2 (2000 acres)
 (Tons and acres are absolute numbers. Dollars are acre equivalents)

Conservation System or Practice	Sheet Rill (1870 acres)				Ephemeral Gully (100 acres)				Sediment (30 acres)				Incremental			
	Erosion		Damage		Erosion		Damage		On Site		Damage		Benefits	Costs	B/C Ratio	Net Benefits
	Remain Tons/Ac	Reduct Ton/Ac	Remain \$	Reduct \$	Remain Acres	Reduct Acres	Remain \$	Reduct \$	Remain Acres	Reduct Acres	Remain \$	Reduct \$				
No Treatment	27	--	31.77	--	100	--	5.76	--	30	--	1.35	--	--	--	--	--
Iteration #1:																
Cons. Till--Fall Chisel	19	8	14.04	17.73	85	15	4.59	1.17	22	8	0.94	0.41	19.31	1.97	9.8	17.34
Cons. Till--No Till	6	21	1.28	30.49	80	20	3.90	1.86	9	21	0.41	0.94	33.29	1.97	16.9	31.32
Contour Farming	14	13	20.77	11.00	85	15	5.15	0.61	16	14	0.93	0.42	12.03	3.27	3.7	8.76
Terrace w/Waterway	5	22	13.58	18.19	0	100	1.75	4.01	6	24	0.51	0.84	23.04	24.00	1.0	-0.96
Terrace w/Tile	5	22	13.58	18.19	0	100	0.73	5.03	6	24	0.51	0.84	24.06	29.00	0.8	-4.94
Grassed Waterway	27	0	31.77	0.00	0	100	1.91	3.86	24	6	1.20	0.15	4.01	1.80	2.2	2.21
Iteration #2:																
Cons. Till--No Till	6		1.28		80		3.90		9		0.41					
NT + Contour Farming	4	2	0.84	0.44	68	12	3.49	0.41	5	4	0.28	0.13	0.98	0.33	3.0	0.65
NT + Terrace w/WW	1	5	0.55	0.73	0	80	1.75	2.15	2	7	0.15	0.26	3.14	19.00	0.2	-15.86
NT + Terrace w/Tile	1	5	0.55	0.73	0	80	0.49	3.41	2	7	0.15	0.26	4.40	23.00	0.2	-18.60
NT + Grass Waterway	6	0	1.28	0.00	0	80	1.91	1.99	7	2	0.36	0.05	2.04	1.60	1.3	0.44
Iteration #3:																
NT + Contour Farming	4		0.84		68		3.49		5		0.28					
NT+CF + Terrace w/WW	1	3	0.36	0.48	0	68	1.75	1.74	1	4	0.10	0.18	2.40	16.00	0.2	-13.60
NT+CF + Terrace w/Tile	1	3	0.36	0.48	0	68	0.49	3.00	1	4	0.10	0.18	3.66	21.00	0.2	-17.34
NT+CF + Grassed Waterway	4	0	0.84	0.00	0	68	1.91	1.58	4	1	0.25	0.03	1.61	1.20	1.30	0.41
Iteration #4:																
NT+CF + Grassed Waterway	4		0.84		0		1.91		4		0.25					
NT+CF+GWW + Terrace w/WW	1	3	0.36	0.48	0	0	1.91	0	1	4	0.10	0.15	0.63	15.00	0.0	-14.37