

Special Environmental Concerns Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheet

The following guide sheet may be used to assist in the evaluation of the special resource concerns shown in Part J of the Form KS-CPA-52, Environmental Effects for Conservation Planning. Completion of this guide sheet is not required, but may provide additional documentation that the appropriate processes have been followed.

WETLANDS

STEP 1. Are wetlands present in or near the planning area?

NO **YES**

a. If your answer is “No,” document this on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Form KS-CPA-52. (If the area could qualify as “Waters of the U.S.” such as lakes, streams, channels, or other impoundment or conveyances, a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit may be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). Refer to the Waters of the U.S./Clean Water Act Help Sheet).

b. If your answer is “Yes,” document and go to Step 2.

STEP 2. Will the proposed activity impact any wetland areas?

NO **YES**

a. If your answer is “No,” document this on the Form KS-CPA-52 and proceed with planning.

b. If your answer is “Yes,” describe on the Form KS-CPA -52 the effects of the proposed activity on the wetland area. Proceed to Step 3.

STEP 3. Do practicable alternatives exist which either enhance wetland functions and values, or avoid or minimize harm to wetlands?

NO **YES**

a. If your answer is “No,” meaning that the findings of the environmental evaluation show that no practicable alternatives exist, NRCS may provide technical assistance which allows for the conversion of the wetland and develop a mitigation plan for compensation of the functions and values that were lost through the conversion activity. Prior to or concurrent with NRCS assistance, the client should obtain all necessary permits or approvals related to work in wetlands.

b. If your answer is “Yes” meaning that a practicable alternative exists, inform the client, and advise them of the available options and the benefits of those options. Proceed to Step 4.

STEP 4. Does the client wish to pursue an identified practicable alternative that enhances wetland functions and values, or avoids or minimizes harm to wetlands?

NO

YES

a. If the answer is “No” meaning the client chooses to pursue an activity other than an identified practicable alternative, advise the client regarding eligibility criteria under the Food Security Act (FSA) as amended, and that the NRCS may assist with the development of an acceptable associated mitigation plan, but can not offer further financial or technical assistance for the wetland conversion activity itself. Prior to or concurrent with NRCS assistance, the client should obtain all necessary permits or approvals related to work in wetlands.

b. If the answer is “yes,” meaning the client selects one of the alternative options, continue with planning and technical assistance for the conversion activity, as well as the development of an associated mitigation plan and document effects on Form KS-CPA-52. Prior to or concurrent with NRCS assistance, the client should obtain all necessary permits or approvals related to work in wetlands.