U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Save As

ME-CPA-52
October, 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Instructions

A. Client Name:

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional):

D. Client's Objective(s): (purpose) Maintain and improve the economic return from the operation, protect the resources for future generations. Reduce soil erosion, improve soil

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

E. Need for Action:	**G. Alternatives** *No Action* √ if RMS ☐	*Alternative 1* √ if RMS ☒
Reduce soil erosion, increase soil quality, plant productivity, health and vigor	Potato/small grain rotation, yields and quality below producer's expectations refer to resource concern checklist for	Conservation Crop - potato/grain cover crop rotation (328), Cover Crop (340), Nutrient Management

Resource Concerns & Special Environmental Concerns
In Section "F" below, analyze, record and address concerns identified through the Resource Inventory process.
(See FOTG Section III - Resource Quality Criteria for guidance).
Click on the following links for a Resource Concerns/Considerations Checklist or Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE).

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified condition)	**H. Effects of Alternatives** *No Action* Amount, Status, Description (short and long term)	√ if does NOT meet QC	*Alternative 1* Amount, Status, Description (short and long term)	√ if does NOT meet QC
SOIL				
Erosion: Ephermeral Gully	Estimated erosion at 25 tons/yr - gully erosion worksheet	☒	Estmated erosion at 2 tons/yr - gully erosion worksheet	☐
Erosion: Sheet & Rill	Estimated erosion at 14 tons/yr - RUSLE2 worksheet	☒	Estmated erosion at 2 tons/yr - RUSLE2 worksheet	☐
		☐		☐
WATER				
Surface Water Quality: Excess Suspended Sediment & Turbidity	Excessive nutrient/organics observed in surface water runoff	☒	Nutrients managed according to soil tests, crop needs	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐
AIR				
No air resource concerns exist on this planning unit	No short or long term effects	☐	No short or long term effects	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐
PLANTS				
Condition: Productivity, Health & Vigor	220 cwt potatoes produced, 45 bu oats produced on CMU	☒	260 cwt potatoes, 60 bu oats, 1000# rye cover, improved potato quality	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐

F. Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified condition)	H. Effects of Alternatives, (continued) No Action: Amount, Status, Description (short and long term)	√ if does NOT meet QC	Alternative 1: Amount, Status, Description (short and long term)	√ if does NOT meet QC
ANIMALS WHEP				
No domestic animal resource concerns exist on this planning unit	No short or long term effects	☐	No short or long term effects	☐
Wild: Inadequate Cover/Shelter	Refer to WHEP for details	☒	Refer to WHEP for details	☐
		☐		☐
HUMAN, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS				
Land Use	Currently in crop production		No change	
Capital	Adequate capital exists for crop production		No change	
Labor	Adequate labor		No change	
Management Level	Adequate management present		No change	
Profitability	Lower returns for lower quality and quantity of crops		Better quality/quantity of crops over time.	
Risk	Increased risk due to gradual decrease of soil and crop quality		Decreased risk due to gradual increase of soil and crop quality	
Social Well-Being	Farming accepted in community		Continued farming	

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

In Section "I" complete and attach applicable Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation. 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 not proceed for practices not involved in consultation.

I. Special Environmental Concerns (Document compliance with Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns No Action: Status and progress of compliance. (Complete and attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Alternative 1: Status and progress of compliance. (Complete and attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
•Clean Water Act/Waters of the U.S.	Excessive nutrient/organics observed in surface water runoff	☐	Nutrients managed according to soil tests, crop needs	☐
•Coastal Zone Management Coral Reefs	Not applicable	☐	Not applicable	☐
•Cultural Resources	See attached recommendations	☐	See attached recommendations	☐
• Endangered and Threatened Species (Use one ME-ECS-1 Guidesheet for both plants and animals)	Atlantic salmon identified as ESA species - habitat impaired due to sediment/turbidity in surface waters	☒	See attached recommendations	☐

I. Special Environmental Concerns (Document compliance with Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns, (continued)			
	No Action		*Alternative 1*	
	Status and progress of compliance. (Complete and attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Status and progress of compliance. (Complete and attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action
Environmental Justice	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
•Essential Fish Habitat	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
Floodplain Management	No effect	☐	No effectNo effect	☐
Invasive Species	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
Prime and Important Farmlands	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
Riparian Area	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
•Wetlands	No effect	☐	No effect	☐
•Wild and Scenic Rivers	Not applicable	☐	Not applicable	☐

K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	*No Action*	*Alternative 1*
Easements, Permissions, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted	None	None
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)	None	Long term improvements in air shed, income and income stability, biodiversity, habitat suitability; health for humans, domestic & wild animals and quality of surface waters and aquatic habitats. (Source: , Section IV, Conservation Practices, network diagrams for
L. Mitigation	None	None
M. Preferred Alternative — √ preferred alternative	☐	☒
M. Preferred Alternative — Supporting Reason		Typical practices exist, no extraordinary circumstances exist

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.	Site specific action, localized impacts are the extent of the affected region

O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances
Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant affect 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	
☐	☒	Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
☐	☒	Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly effect 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 alterative 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 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 Environmental Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to concerns such as cultural historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, essential fish habitat, riparian areas, natural areas, scenic beauty, and invasive species.
☐	☒	Will the preferred alterative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

P. The information recorded above is based on the best available information:
In the case where a non-NRCS person (i.e. a TSP) assists with the planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block as the responsible federal agency for the planning action.

Signature (TSP if applicable)	Title	Date

Signature (NRCS - Certified Conservation Planner)	Title	Date

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)
The preferred alternative:

		Action Required
☐	1. is **not** a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility. (7 CFR Part 650)	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
☐	2. is a federal action that is **categorically excluded** from further environmental analysis **and** there are **no extraordinary circumstances**.	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 the agency's 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 a list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. 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 impacts or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis is required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R1. Findings Documentation	Use of NRCS Conservation Practices to Address Natural Resource Concerns on Non-Federal Lands in the New England States and New York, Environmental Assessment, April, 2007
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply)	

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Human, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy.
S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:

Signature	Title	Date
	District Conservationist	

Additional notes