

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING

NEPA Compliance – see 190, General Manual, Part 410 – Special Environmental Concerns identified through this evaluation have been considered in plan development to avoid adverse impacts. See attached page for definition of each Special Environmental Concern and appropriate policy references.

Area covered by this Environmental Evaluation:

Owner: _____

TWP and Section(s) of Planning Unit: _____ Date: _____

- 1. WETLANDS:** Present in or near the planning unit? Yes No
What effect will the planned practices have on the resource?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative
Describe all significant effects:

- 2. CULTURAL RESOURCES**
Are the planned practices identified as undertakings in eFOTG, Section II? Yes No
If “Yes,” mail Request For Cultural Resources Review to Contract Archaeologist. Do not complete this section until results are known. Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative

- 3. FLOOD PLAINS AND RIPARIAN AREAS:** Present in or near the planning unit? Yes No
What effect will the planned practices have on the resource?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative
Describe all significant effects:

- 4. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER:** Present in or near the planning unit? Yes No
Describe the area(s) including location:
What effect will the planned practices have on the resource?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative
Describe all significant effects:

- 5. FARMLANDS - PRIME, UNIQUE OR OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE:** Present in the unit? Yes No
Prime, Unique or Local Importance Soil Mapping Units present:
Will the planned practices irreversibly convert this farmland to another use? Yes No

- 6. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OR OTHER SPECIES OF CONCERN:**
Present in or near the planning unit? Yes Potentially present No
(attach search form from Natural Features database)
What effect will the planned practices have on the resource?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative
Describe all significant effects:

- 7. LANDSCAPE RESOURCE (SCENIC BEAUTY):**
Are unique or high quality Landscape Resources present in the planning unit? Yes No
What effect will the planned practices have on the resources?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative
Describe all significant effects:

8. COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AREA (CZMA):

Is the planning unit located in the designated CZMA? Yes No

What effect will the planned practices have on the resources?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative

Describe all significant effects:

9. NATURAL AREA:

Is a designated Natural Area present in or near the planning unit? Yes No

What effect will the planned practices have on the resources?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative

Describe all significant effects:

10. SPECIAL AQUATIC SITE:

Is a Special Aquatic Site present in or near planning unit? Yes No

What effect will the planned practices have on the resources?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative

Describe all significant effects:

11. STREAM CHANNEL MODIFICATION:

Does the proposed action involve channel modification of a stream, wetland, or riparian area? Yes No

What effect will the planned practices have on the resources?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative

Describe all significant effects:

12. MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTION:

Migratory Bird Habitat present or in the planning unit? Yes No

What effect will the planned practices have on the resources?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative

Describe all significant effects:

13. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Does proposed action affect minority populations, low-income populations or Indian tribes in a disproportionately high and adverse manner regarding public health or interrelated cultural, social occupational, historical or economical factors? Yes No

Will the population share in the benefits of the proposed action? Yes No

What effect will the planned practices have?
Significantly positive Negligible Significantly negative

14. Environmental Evaluation Form Summary

- To the best of my knowledge, no further environmental evaluation is required. Undertakings are not involved.
- To the best of my knowledge, except for Cultural Resources, no further environmental evaluation is required.
- To the best of my knowledge, there is or may be a significant negative impact on one or more of the above Special Environmental Concerns. Further analysis, including an Environmental Evaluation, will be necessary.

	Title	Date
Other Federal Agency Name	Title	Date

DEFINITIONS AND REFERENCES FOR FORM MI-CPA-15

1. **Wetlands** are defined as lands that have a predominance of hydric soil; and are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation. Ref: Food Security Act Manual; General Manual Title 190, Part 410.26.
2. **Cultural Resources** mean any prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or an equivalent register maintained at the state or local level, including artifacts, records and remains (including scientific, archaeological, historical and prehistoric data) related to such districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects. Ref: General Manual Title 420, Part 401.
3. **Flood Plains** are areas adjacent to streams, rivers, lakes and watercourses which are inundated with a 100-year storm event. Federal regulations requires that the planning unit be cropped 3 of 5 years or be part of a state water quality plan. All practice installations require a state permit. Ref: General Manual Title 190, Part 410.25.
Riparian Areas are ecosystems that occur along watercourses or water bodies and have unique soil and vegetation characteristics that are strongly influenced by free or unbound water in the soil. Ref: General Manual Title 190, Part 411.
4. **Wild and Scenic River** is a free flowing river or river-segment that has been designated by the State of Michigan or Federal Government and has legal protection from adverse development and provides a mechanism for management of the river's resources. Ref.: PL 90-542.
5. **Prime Farmland** is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses. **Unique Farmland** is defined as land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high value crops as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. **Farmland of Local Importance** is farmland other than prime or unique that is of local importance as determined by the appropriate local agency and concurred in by the NRCS State Conservationist. Ref.: General Manual Title 310, Part 403.
6. **Endangered Species** are any species in danger of extinction throughout all, or a significant portion of, its range; **Threatened Species** are any species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future. May be state or federally listed as threatened or endangered. **Other species of concern** are any species likely to become threatened within the foreseeable future. Ref: General Manual Title 190, Part 410.22.
7. **Landscape Resource (Scenic Beauty)** are those perceived physical elements and processes of the landscape that have value for human use. They include Landform, Vegetation, Structures and Water. Human decisions to alter these elements should enhance their scenic beauty. Ref.: General Manual Title 190, Part 410.24.
8. **Coastal Zone Management Areas (CZMA)** are areas located within or near the officially designated "coastal zone" of the State. CZMA includes the coastal waters and the adjacent shorelines of the State. Ref.: PL 92-583.
9. **Natural Areas** are defined as land or water units where natural conditions are maintained insofar as possible. Natural areas may be designated on federal government, non-federal government, or privately controlled land. Designation may be informal in the case of private landowners who designate a specific area as a natural area and manage it accordingly. Ref: General Manual Title 190, Part 410.23.
10. **Special Aquatic Sites** are locations where fish and wildlife that require specific habitat to provide refuge and sanctuary. They warrant special attention as listed in the Clean Water Act. Ref.: EPA 404 (b) (1) 230.3 and 230.1.
11. **Stream Channel Modification** is an alternative that may be utilized in solving specific water management problems. RC&D Measures and PL-566 Small Watershed Projects are NRCS projects that often affect this concern. Ref.: General Manual Title 190, Part 410.27 and 28.
12. **Migratory Bird Protection** is the policy of Federal agencies to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and EO 13186 for the purpose of protecting migratory birds and their habitat. Ref.: EO 13186, Fed. Reg. Vol. 66, No. 11 Jan 17, 2001.

13. **Environmental Justice** determines whether all people, including minority and low income individuals, will be provided the opportunity to comment before decisions are made; be allowed to share in the benefits of the decision and not be excluded from them; and not be affected in a disproportionately high or adverse manner by government programs and activities affecting human health or the environment. Ref.: EO 12898, Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice In Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.
14. **Signature Blocks** NRCS individual responsible for completing MI-CPA-15 must be certified Conservation Planner and must sign and date form indicating they have used the best available information. When appropriate, FSA or other federal agency official must sign and date for FSA or

Further Analysis

Significantly, as used in NEPA, requires considerations of both **Context** and **Intensity**:

Context

This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several situations, such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, for site-specific action, significance usually depends on the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant.

Intensity

This refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. Consider the degree to which public health and safety are affected; the amount of impact to unique characteristics of the geographic area; whether the risk is cumulative to the environment or individual; and whether there is a violation of Federal, state or local law.

MI-CPA-15

If there are **Significantly Positive** effects or **Negligible** effects, the planner is to describe them on the MI-CPA-15 under the Special Environmental Concern. Additional documentation is not required for the Special Environmental Concern. The planner can proceed with planning.

If there are **Significantly Negative** effects, then the planner is to describe them on the MI-CPA-15 and then to consult with the Area Office or the Environmental Liaison about performing a Environmental Evaluation to determine the need for an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Study.

NRCS Contacts

Questions regarding the Special Environmental Concerns and the completion of the MI-CPA-15 should be directed through the NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Technology to the NRCS Environmental Liaison. If the assistance requires Technical Specialists, the NRCS Environmental Liaison will direct the questions to appropriate Technical Specialists.