

190 – National Environmental Compliance Handbook
Environmental Evaluation for Conservation Planning (OK-CPA-52)

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| U.S. Department Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Evaluation for Conservation Planning | OK-CPA-52 10-09 | Client: _____ Location: _____ Field Number(s): _____ Conservation Plan ID _____ |
|---|--------------------|--|

Purpose: This form documents existing resource concerns and summarizes the effects and impacts of proposed conservation practices and activities on natural, human, and cultural resources.

Instructions: This form will be completed for all planning activities and conservation plans developed in Oklahoma. Indicate with a yes or no, all existing resource concerns present. When marked yes, indicate what the resource concerns are in the Comments column. Under Planning Impact, note whether the conservation activity will have a long term or short term positive (+) or negative (-) impact. If a negative impact is noted, explain in Comments section or on an attachment.

Natural Resources Concerns [See FOTG Section III for detailed listing of Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria]

| | Existing Concern(s) | Planning Impact | Comments |
|---------|--|---|----------|
| Soil | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Plants | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |

Human Resources Concerns [See Instructions and Part 610.71(Environmental Procedure Guide Sheets) for detailed explanation]

| | Existing Concern(s) | Planning Impact | Comments |
|-----------------------|--|---|----------|
| *Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| *Economic | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Environmental Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Scenic Beauty | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |

(* Consider the impacts on Landuse, Capital, Management Level, Profitability, Risk, and Social Well-Being)

Special Resources Concerns [See Instructions and Part 610.71(Environmental Procedure Guide Sheets) for detailed explanation]

| | Resource(s) Present | Planning Impact | Comments |
|--------------------------------|--|---|----------|
| Prime and Unique Farmland | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Threatened/Endangered Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Invasive Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Natural Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Wild and Scenic River | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Wetland/Special Aquatic Site * | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Riparian Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Floodplain Management * | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |
| Stream Channel Modification * | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> + <input type="checkbox"/> - | _____ |

*Was Landowner advised that additional easements, permissions, or permits may be required? **Yes** **No**

(* 404 permit, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endanger Species Act, Wetland Mitigation etc.)

Cultural Resources Concerns

Will the planned practice(s) involve ground disturbance (undertaking) that may damage cultural resources? **Yes** **No**
 (See GM 420, Part 401.40 through Part 401.43). If "no" complete Item 1 below. If "yes" complete Item 2a, and 2b if appropriate.

1. Attach copy of GM 420, Amend. OK 1, Part 401.43. Circle the proposed non-ground disturbing practice(s).
- 2a. Submit Technical Assistance Review Form to the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey (OAS) in Norman. If the response from OAS is "no", attach form showing negative response, OAS Signature, and OAS date stamp.
- 2b. If the OAS response is "yes", contact NRCS archaeologist. NRCS archaeologist will conduct field investigation and submit results to OAS for review and agreement. Attach copy of OAS letter of agreement provided by the NRCS archaeologist.

Environment Evaluation completed by: _____ Date: _____

OK610.E.70(1)

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The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO): *The State Conservationist is the RFO at the state level and the District Conservationist is the RFO at the field level.*

The RFO is to use the OK-CPA-52 to determine whether there are significant adverse environmental effects or "extraordinary circumstances" that would preclude the applicability of a categorical exclusion or the tiering process. Review the definitions below of significance and extraordinary circumstances as defined by context and intensity (40 CFR Part 1508.27).

Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances: *This section does not need to be completed when only Technical Assistance is provided (e.g. conservation plan development). It must be completed when federal financial assistance is being provided.*

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 the answer to ANY of the questions below is "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 affects on public health or safety?

Yes **No** 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?

Yes **No** Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?

Yes **No** Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?

Yes **No** Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?

Yes **No** 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?

Yes **No** 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, scenic beauty, and invasive species.

Yes **No** Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

NEPA Compliance Finding: Check Appropriate Box

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>1) The Finding is not a federal action because only technical assistance was provided. No financial assistance is being provided.</p> <p>2) The Finding is a federal action that is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis and there are no extraordinary circumstances.</p> <p>3) The Finding is a federal action because financial assistant is being provided. NRCS Programs have been sufficiently analyzed in an existing published NRCS state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u>.</p> | No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>4) The Finding 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.</p> <p>5) The Finding is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and require an EA or EIS.</p> | The action will be referred to the State Office. |

Rationale supporting the above Finding:

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances (as outlined in the NECH 610.22).

Responsible Federal Official

Title

Date

OK610.E.70(2)