U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Save As

ME-CPA-52
October, 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Instructions

A. Client Name:

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional): CRP

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

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

E. Need for Action:

Improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat along riparian corridors.

F. Alternatives

No Action	*Alternative 1*
√ if RMS ☐	√ if RMS ☒
	Filter strip, 393

Resource Concerns & Special Environmental Concerns

In Section "G" below, analyze, record and address concerns identified through the Resource Inventory process. (For *Resource Concerns* see FOTG Section III - Resource Quality Criteria for guidance. For *Special Environmental Concerns* 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 proceed for practices not involved in consultation.)
Click on the following links for a Resource Concerns/Considerations Checklist or Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE).

G. Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions
(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified condition)

H. Effects of Alternatives

G. Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions	*No Action* Trend short	*No Action* Trend long	*No Action* Amount, Status, Description	*No Action* √ if meets QC	*Alternative 1* Trend short	*Alternative 1* Trend long	*Alternative 1* Amount, Status, Description	*Alternative 1* √ if meets QC
SOIL								
No resource concerns exist for soils on this planning unit	0	0	No effect	☒	0	0	No effect	☒
				☐				☐
				☐				☐
Prime and Important Farmlands	0	0	No effect		0	0	No effect	
WATER								
Surface Water Quality: Excessive Nutrients and Organics	-	-	Runoff containing nitrates and dissolved phosphorus is entering surface water from	☐	0	+	planted vegetation along water courses removes nutrients from runoff	☒
Surface Water Quality: Excess Suspended Sediment & Turbidity	-	-	Runoff containing suspended sediment is entering surface water from adjacent fields	☐	0	+	planted vegetation slows runoff, traps sediment and reduces	☒
				☐				☐
Clean Water Act/ Waters of the U.S.	-	-	Nutrient and particulates contained in surface runoff reducing water quality of surface waters		0	+	planted vegetation along water courses removes sediments, nutrients and other	
Coastal Zone Management Areas	N/A	N/A	Not applicable		N/A	N/A	Not applicable	
Floodplain Management	0	0	Floodplain function not affected		0	0	Floodplain function not affected	
Riparian Area	-	-	Riparian area lacking permanent vegetation where cropped.		0	+	Riparian corridor improved by establishment of permanent grasses	
Wetlands	-	-	Sediments/contaminants may be entering wetlands from nearby fields		0	+	Wetlands adjacent to filter strip protected from sedimentation from adjacent cropland	

G. Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified condition)	H. Effects of Alternatives							
	No Action				*Alternative 1*			
	Trend		Amount, Status, Description	√ if meets QC	Trend		Amount, Status, Description	√ if meets QC
	short	long			short	long		
AIR								
No air resource concerns exist on this planning unit	0	0	No effect	☒	0	0	No effect	☒
				☐				☐
				☐				☐
Clean Air Act	0	0	No effect		0	0	No effect	
PLANTS								
Condition: Not Adapted or Suited	-	-	weeds occurring along stream/ pond borders	☐	0	+	permanent vegetation suppresses weeds along stream/pond borders	☒
				☐				☐
				☐				☐
Endangered and Threatened Species (Use one ME-ECS-1 Guidesheet for both plants and animals)	0	0	No effect		0	0	No effect	
Invasive Species	0	0	No effect		0	0	No effect	
Natural Areas	0	0	No effect		0	0	No effect	
Riparian Area	-	-	Riparian area lacking permanent vegetation where cropped.		0	+	Riparian corridor improved by establishment of permanent grasses	
ANIMALS **WHEP**								
No domestic animal resource concerns exist on this planning unit	N/A	N/A	Not applicable	☒	N/A	N/A	Not applicable	☒
Wild: T & E, Declining or Species of Concern, Essential Habitats			Cropland provides little habitat for grassland birds	☐			Grass filter strips benefits grassland birds	☒
				☐				☐
Endangered and Threatened Species (Use one ME-ECS-1 Guidesheet for both plants and animals)	0	0	No effect		0	0	Filter strips provide cover and travel corridor for many species of wildlife. Water	
Essential Fish Habitat	0	0	Not applicable		0	0	Not applicable	
Invasive Species	0	0	No effect		0	0	No effect	
Riparian Area	-	-	Riparian area lacking permanent vegetation where cropped.		0	+	Riparian corridor improved by establishment of permanent grasses	

G. Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified condition)	H. Effects of Alternatives					
	No Action			*Alternative 1*		
	Trend		Amount, Status, Description	Trend		Amount, Status, Description
	short	long		short	long	
HUMAN, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Cultural Resources	0	0	See attached recommendations	0	0	See attached recommendations
Environmental Justice	0	0	No effect	0	0	No effect
Scenic Beauty	0	0	No effect	0	0	No effect
Land Use	0	0	Land currently in ag production	0	0	Land retains potential for ag production
Capital	0	0	Landowner has limited funds and inputs	-	-	Increased cost of establishment, long term maintenance
Labor	0	0	Available labor and time exists for this land unit	+	+	Increase labor during establishment and maintenance
Management Level	0	0	Low level of management exists	+	+	Increased management of practices
Profitability	-	-	Low level of profitability exists on marginal producing fields	+	+	Increased profitability due to decrease tax liability, CRP income from rental payment
Risk	0	+	Tax liability is an identified existing risk	-	-	Risk lowered due to decrease in tax liability, income from CRP contract
Social Well-Being	0	0	Community interested in wildlife	+	+	General benefit from more diversity of wildlife

I. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	*No Action*	*Alternative 1*
Easements, Permissions, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted	None	None
Identify any additional environmental, resource-protection, or land use laws or regulations or concerns to address:	None	None
J. Mitigation	None	None
K. Preferred Alternative — √ preferred alternative	☐	☒
K. Preferred Alternative — Supporting Reason		Typical practices exist, no extraordinary circumstances exist

L. The information recorded above is based on the best available information:

Signature	Title	Date

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RESPONSIBLE FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICIAL.
Sections "M" & "N" do not need to be completed when only Technical Assistance is provided (e.g. development of conservation plans without federally guided implementation.

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

M. Context (record context of alternatives analysis):	Site specific action, localized impacts are the extent of the affected region

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:

N. Determination of significance or Extraordinary Circumstances

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 you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then 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 cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, 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?

O. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one) The preferred alternative		Action Required
☐	1. is **not** a federal action subject to FSA regulations implementing NEPA.	Document in "P" 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 "P" below. No additional analysis is required.
☒	3. is a federal action that has been **sufficiently analyzed** in an existing published FSA state, regional or national NEPA document and there are **no predicted significant adverse environmental effects** or extraordinary circumstances.	Document in "P" below. No additional analysis is required.
☐	4. is a federal action that has been **sufficiently analyzed** in another Federal agency's NEPA document that addresses the proposed FSA action and its' effects **and has been formally adopted by FSA.** FSA 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.	Contact the FSA State Environmental Coordinator for a list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "P" 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.	Further NEPA analysis is required.

P. Rationale Supporting the Finding:	Conservation Reserve Program Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, June 2010

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

	County Executive Director	
Signature	**Title**	**Date**