U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Save As

ME-CPA-52
October, 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Instructions

A. Client Name: All clients requesting a CAP

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional):

D. Client's Objective(s): (purpose) Develop a Conservation Activity Plan through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program

C. Identification #: (farm, tract, field #, etc, as required) All farms, tracts, fields will be identified on the CAP as applicable.

E. Need for Action:	G. Alternatives: *No Action* √ if RMS ☐	*Alternative 1* √ if RMS ☐
Develop a Conservation Activity Plan to ADDRESS specific resource concerns on an agricultural or forestry operation	No Conservation Activity Plan is written; current activities continue	Current activities continue; One or more of the following Activity plans are to be written:

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				
No soil resources affected by the development of the CAP	none	☐	none	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐
WATER				
No water resources affected by the development of the CAP	none	☐	none	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐
AIR				
No air resources affected by the development of the CAP	none	☐	none	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐
PLANTS				
No plant resources affected by the development of the CAP	none	☐	none	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐

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 animal resources affected by the development of the CAP	none	☐	none	☐
		☐		☐
		☐		☐
HUMAN, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS				
Land Use	none		none	
Capital	none		none	
Labor	none		none	
Management Level	none		none	
Profitability	none		none	
Risk	none		none	
Social Well-Being	none		none	

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	n/a - continuation of current activities	☐	n/a - no new action implemented	☐
•Clean Water Act/Waters of the U.S.	none	☐	none	☐
•Coastal Zone Management Coral Reefs	none	☐	none	☐
•Cultural Resources	none	☐	none	☐
• Endangered and Threatened Species (Use one ME-ECS-1 Guidesheet for both plants and animals)	none	☐	none	☐

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	none	☐	none	☐
•Essential Fish Habitat	none	☐	none	☐
Floodplain Management	none	☐	none	☐
Invasive Species	none	☐	none	☐
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	none	☐	none	☐
Prime and Important Farmlands	none	☐	none	☐
Riparian Area	none	☐	none	☐
•Wetlands	none	☐	none	☐
•Wild and Scenic Rivers	none	☐	none	☐

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	none
L. Mitigation	none	none
M. Preferred Alternative — √ preferred alternative	☐	☒
M. Preferred Alternative — Supporting Reason		Development of CAP has no adverse effects

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.	Development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) will have noeffects locally, regionally or nationally. A new environmental evaluation will be conducted prior to federal assistance for implementation of the CAP.

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
	State Resource Conservationist	

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	No financial assistance is included with Conservation Activity Plan for implementation of recommended actions - not a federal action.
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
	State Conservationist	

Additional notes

Programmatic Environmental Evaluation is for the completion of all Conservation Activity Plans funded through the EQIP Program.