U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Print Form

ME-CPA-52
October, 2009

# ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Instructions

**A. Client Name:**

**B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):**

**Program Authority (optional):**

**C. Client's Objective(s): (purpose)** To manage the timber for health and productivity and to provide commercial forest products, primarily those associated with long rotations and

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

**E. Need for Action:**

To enhance health and vigor of these stands, and to modify species composition.To increase the future quality of forest products.The current understory is dominated by poorly formed, disease prone beech seedlings and saplings.

**F. Alternatives**

| *No Action* √ if RMS ☐ | *Alternative 1* √ if RMS ☒ |
|---|---|
| Low quality beech seedlings and saplings will dominate the understory of these stands, preventing natural germination of desirable species and | Forest Stand Improvement (666), Integrated Pest Management (595) |

**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).

**H. Effects of Alternatives**

| **G. Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions** (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified condition) | *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** | | | | | | | | |
| No water resource concerns exist on this planning unit | 0 | 0 | No effect | ☒ | 0 | 0 | No effect | ☒ |
| | | | | ☐ | | | | ☐ |
| | | | | ☐ | | | | ☐ |
| Clean Water Act/ Waters of the U.S. | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |
| Coastal Zone Management Areas | N/A | N/A | Not applicable | | N/A | N/A | Not applicable | |
| Floodplain Management | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |
| Riparian Area | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |
| Wetlands | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |

| 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: Productivity, Health & Vigor | - | - | Refer to forest management plan for details | ☐ | 0 | + | Productivity, health and vigor optimized for site conditions | ☒ |
| | | | | ☐ | | | | ☐ |
| | | | | ☐ | | | | ☐ |
| Endangered and Threatened Species | 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 | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |
| **ANIMALS** WHEP | | | | | | | | |
| No domestic animal resource concerns exist on this planning unit | 0 | 0 | No effect | ☒ | 0 | 0 | No effect | ☒ |
| No wildlife resource concerns exist on this planning unit | 0 | 0 | Refer to WHEP for details | ☒ | 0 | 0 | Refer to WHEP for details | ☒ |
| | | | | ☐ | | | | ☐ |
| Endangered and Threatened Species | 0 | 0 | Atlantic salmon identified as ESA species - habitat impaired due to habitat fragmentation in watershed | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |
| Essential Fish Habitat | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |
| Invasive Species | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |
| Riparian Area | 0 | 0 | No effect | | 0 | 0 | No effect | |

| 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 | Managed as woodlot | 0 | 0 | No change |
| Capital | 0 | - | Minimal capital expended for woodlot use | - | 0 | Initial outlay for forest management |
| Labor | 0 | 0 | Minimal labor expended for woodlot use | - | 0 | Initial outlay for labor for forest management |
| Management Level | 0 | 0 | Minimal | - | - | Increased management based on forestry plan |
| Profitability | 0 | 0 | Slight to moderate profit potential | 0 | + | Increased value from improved woodlot |
| Risk | 0 | 0 | Some risk from wind, pest damage | 0 | + | Healthier forest provides less risk from wind, pest damage |
| Social Well-Being | 0 | 0 | Forest Products Industry accepted in community | + | + | Maintain Forest Products Industry in community |

| 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 FEDERAL OFFICIAL (RFO).
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 RFO is to use the ME-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 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 contact the State Resource Conservationist 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 wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clear air, 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)<br>The preferred alternative | | Action Required |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ | 1. is **not** a federal action subject to NRCS regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR Part 650) | Document in "P" below.<br>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.<br>No additional analysis is required. |
| ☐ | 3. is a federal action that has been **sufficiently analyzed** in an existing published NRCS state, regional or national NEPA document and there are **no predicted significant adverse environmental effects** or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "P" below.<br>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 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. | Contact the State Resource Conservationist for a list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering.<br>Document in "P" below.<br>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 Resource Conservationist. Further NEPA analysis is required. |

| **P. Rationale Supporting the Finding:** | No financial assistance is included with Conservation Activity Plan for implementation - not a federal action. |
|---|---|

***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)***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signature** | **Title** | **Date** |