

Instructions

Environmental Evaluation Worksheet

NE-CPA-52

Purpose

NRCS conducts an Environmental Evaluation (EE), as required by 7 CFR § 650.5, during the conservation planning process that incorporates environmental considerations throughout planning, installation, and operation for all actions where NRCS may have control (i.e. be the decision maker). Conducting the EE should coincide with our conservation planning process and should not be considered a separate activity once actions have been decided and planned. In this way potential impacts from a proposed alternative that may require mitigation, or required consultation and permitting issues can be identified and addressed in a timely manner.

NRCS is required to conduct an Environmental Evaluation (EE) for all planning and financial assistance, including, but not limited to:

- Development of individual conservation plans (including AFO/CAFO plans)
- Area-wide and Watershed Planning
- RC&D activities
- Financial assistance in the form of grants (e.g., Conservation Innovation Grants [CIG])
- Conservation Planning activities contracted to Technical Service Providers (e.g., Conservation Activity Plans [CAP])
- All NRCS Conservation Programs, including financial assistance and approvals
- Other State or local programs that require NRCS approval, for example, State cost/share program requiring NRCS approval of conservation practice completion
- The establishment of new structures associated with SNOTEL sites, Plant Material facilities, etc.
- Propagation and release of plant materials
- Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) Damage Survey Reports (DSR) (using the DSR form in the EWP Manual)
- NRCS-assisted programs through outside agencies, i.e. FSA (for CRP, BCAP, etc.)
- Infrastructure projects on NRCS WRP Easements (i.e. pipelines crossing WRP easement)

The EE is used to determine the need for an EA or an EIS. The results of the EE are documented on an NRCS-CPA-52, "Environmental Evaluation Worksheet." Among other things, the NRCS-CPA-52 is used to document the appropriate use of a categorical exclusion and existing environmental analysis. **Exception:** An EE is not required when making Food Security Act highly erodible land (HEL) determinations or wetland determinations.

National Bulletin 190-10-18 updated the national version of the NRCS-CPA-52 form and issued National Instruction 190-305 that all States are to use the national EE CPA-52 form. Nebraska has adopted the national form and with headquarters approval has modified some of the associated national Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to suite Nebraska specific planning needs.

Instructions for use of NE-CPA-52

Specific instructions for filling out the form can be found in the electronic Excel spreadsheet at the third tab or in the PDF version at the ninth page. The PDF version is provided for ease in printing the entire form and associated instructions and Guide Sheets. The Resource Considerations Field Inventory Guide Sheet and the Cultural Resources and Endangered and Threatened Species Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets must always be attached to the NE-CPA-52. Any additional guide sheets, assistance, notes, etc. should be attached as pertinent for supporting data. Blocks with associated comments are indicated by a small red triangle in the upper right corner. Aim the mouse pointer at the text area and the comment box will pop-up. When the pointer is moved off the text box area the comment box will disappear. If you wish to have the comment box stay active, then right click with the mouse and select "Show Comment" and then to hide the comment box, right click with the mouse and select "Hide Comment." In comment boxes there are lots of tips and specific guidance that assist you in understanding and completing the NE-CPA-52 and associated documentation. If you choose to use the form in "hard copy" form, BE SURE to go through the electronic form and utilize it as a help/teaching tool to be sure you get started the right direction. Some boxes have a drop down list with possible choices to select from. If other answers are desired, then the box can be filled out manually

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."