



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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October 12, 2011

**NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE
TRANSMITTAL NOTICE NO. 39**

SUBJECT: ECS – NEPA – Categorical Exclusions User Guide

Purpose: To provide guidance on **NRCS Categorical Exclusions (CatEx)**; including, a list of 21 authorized CatEx's, what is required to use a CatEx, and how to properly document the use of a CatEx on the NRCS Environmental Evaluation (NRCS-CPA-52).

Effective Date: This notice is effective when received.

Explanation: Categorical Exclusions are a category of actions that do not normally create significant individual or cumulative effects on the human environment. Therefore, further NEPA review (an EA or EIS) is not required. However, the use of CatEx's does not waive or fulfill NRCS compliance with any applicable legal requirements; including but not limited to the National Historic Preservation Act or the Endangered Species Act.

If you encounter any problems with the attached document or have any questions, please contact Chanda Pettie, State Biologist at (505)761-4432.

This update can be accessed at:

<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/section-1/references.html>

<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/fotg/updates.html>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Chavez", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

GEORGE CHAVEZ
State Resource Conservationist

