CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECTS WORKSHEET

STATE	Pennsylvania	FIELD OFFICE	Any	DATE	
PRACTICE: Irrigation Field Ditch 388		Baseline Setting:			
		Appropriate Land Use(s): Crop, Hay, Pasture			

RESOURCES, CONSIDERATIONS AND CONCERNS	**PHYSICAL EFFECTS**	**RATIONALE**
SOIL - EROSION		
Sheet and Rill	Neutral	A ditch constructed across the slope may intercept runoff water and shorten the slope length.
Wind	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Ephemeral Gully	Neutral	A ditch constructed across the slope may intercept runoff water.
Classic Gully	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Streambank	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Shoreline	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Irrigation Induced	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Mass Movement	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Road, Roadsides, and Construction Sites	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
SOIL – CONDITION		
Organic Matter Depletion	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Rangeland Site Stability	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Compaction	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Subsidence	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Contaminants:		
• Salts and other Chemicals	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Animal Waste and other Organics - N	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Animal Waste and other Organics - P	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Animal Waste and other Organics - K	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Commercial Fertilizer - N	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Commercial Fertilizer – P	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Commercial Fertilizer – K	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Residual Pesticides	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Damage from Sediment Deposition	Slight Improvement	Ditch intercepts runoff that might otherwise cause deposition
WATER – QUANTITY		
Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Excessive Seepage	Neutral	May provide outlet for seepage, however canals may provide a source of seepage.
Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	Slight Improvement	May collect and conveys runoff to safe outlet.
Excessive Subsurface Water	Slight Worsening	May provide a water source for infiltration that will add to subsurface water.

Drifted Snow	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Inadequate Outlets	Slight Worsening	Return flows and spillage may add runoff to already inadequate outlets.
Inefficient Water use on Irrigated Land	Substantial Improvement	Ditches facilitate proper use of irrigation water.
Inefficient Water use on Non-Irrigated Land	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Reduced Capacity of Conveyances by Sediment Deposition	Slight Worsening	Return flows may convey sediment causing additional deposition.
Reduced Storage of Water Bodies by Sediment Accumulation	Slight Worsening	Return flows may convey sediment causing additional deposition.
Aquifer Overdraft	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Insufficient Flows in Water Courses	Slight Improvement	Return flows can add additional flow to water courses.
WATER – QUALITY		
In Groundwater:		
• Harmful Levels of Pesticides	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Excessive Nutrients and Organics	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Excessive Salinity	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Harmful Levels of Heavy Metals	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Harmful Levels of Pathogens	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Harmful Levels of Petroleum	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
In Surface Water:		
• Harmful Levels of Pesticides	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Excessive Nutrients and Organics	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Excessive Salinity	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Harmful Levels of Heavy Metals	Slight Worsening	Return flows from canals may deliver contaminates to surface water.
• Harmful Temperatures	Slight Worsening	Return flows to ditches may be warmer than receiving waters.
• Harmful Levels of Pathogens	Slight Worsening	May collect runoff and return flows may deliver possible contaminates to surface water
• Harmful Levels of Petroleum	Slight Worsening	May collect runoff and return flows may deliver possible contaminates to surface water
AIR – QUALITY		
Particulate Matter less than 10 Micrometers in Diameter (PM 10)	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 Micrometers in Diameter (PM 2.5)	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Excessive Ozone	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Excessive Greenhouse Gas:		
• CO_2 (Carbon Dioxide)	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• N_20 (Nitrous Oxide)	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• CH_4 (Methane)	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Ammonia (NH_3)	Not Applicable	Not applicable.

Chemical Drift	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Objectionable Odors	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Reduced Visibility	Slight Improvement	Increased soil moisture will decrease fugitive dust emissions
Undesirable Air Movement	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Adverse Air Temperature	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
PLANTS – SUITABLIITY		
Plants not Adapted or Suited	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
PLANTS - CONDITION		
Productivity, Health, and Vigor	Slight to Substantial Improvement	Increased water availability enhances plant growth, health and vigor.
Threatened or Endangered Plant Species:		
• Plant Species Listed or Proposed for Listing Under the Endangered Species Act	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
• Declining Species, Species of Concern	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Noxious and Invasive Plants	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Forage Quality and Palatability	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Wildfire Hazard	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
ANIMALS - FISH AND WILDLIFE		
Inadequate Food	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Inadequate Cover/Shelter	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Inadequate Water	Slight Improvement	Water will be temporarily available in the ditch.
Inadequate Space	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Habitat Fragmentation	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Imbalance Among and Within Populations	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species:		
• Fish and Wildlife Species Listed or Proposed for Listing Under the Endangered Species Act	Neutral	Activities are designed, installed, and mitigated to an extent to maintain or enhance species of concern.
• Declining Species, Species of Concern	Neutral	Activities are designed, installed, and mitigated to an extent to maintain or enhance species of concern.
ANIMALS – DOMESTIC		
Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Inadequate Shelter	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Inadequate Stock Water	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
Stress and Mortality	Not Applicable	Not applicable.
HUMAN – ECONOMICS		
Land - Change in Land Use	Slight to Substantial	N/A if no change in crops irrigated, substantial if water use changes.
Land – Land in Production	Slight decrease.	

Capital – Change in Equipment	Slight Increase.	
Capital - Total Investment Cost	Moderate.	
Capital – Annual Cost	Slight to moderate increase.	
Capital – Credit and Farm Program Eligibility	Situational.	
Labor - Labor	Slight to moderate increase.	
Labor – Change in Management Level	Moderate increase.	
Risk - Yield	Slight to Moderate Decrease	Slight to moderate decrease due to increased irrigation efficiency.
Risk - Flexibility	Substantial Decrease	Substantial decrease due to conveyance of water to the field.
Risk - Timing	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Risk – Cash Flow	Slight to Moderate Increase	Slight to moderate increase due to construction cost.
Profitability – Change in Profitability	Situational	Slight decrease to moderate increase.
HUMAN - CULTURAL		
Cultural Resources and/or Historic Properties Present or Suspected to be PRESENT	Slight to Substantial Increase	Construction impacts (mechanical).
HUMAN – ENERGY		
Depletion of Fossil Fuel Resources	Slight to Substantial Decrease	This practice facilitates gravity flow of irrigation water, reducing pumping requirements.
Underutilization of Non-Fossil Energy Resources	Not Applicable	Not applicable.

Human Considerations Explanation

Considerations	Physical effects indicate:
Land - Change in Land Use	The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is expected to cause a change from one land use to another.
Land - Land in Production	The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is expected to cause an increase or decrease in the amount of land in production.
Capital - Change in Equipment	The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is expected to cause an increase or decrease in the amount of capital equipment required for farm or ranch operations.
Capital - Total Investment Cost	A qualitative measure of the increase in total investment dollars required in order to implement the conservation practice.
Capital - Annual Cost	A qualitative measure of the expected change in annual capital costs required in order to operate and maintain the conservation practice.
Capital - Credit & Farm Program Eligibility	Included to make conservation planners aware of the potential availability of funding for implementing conservation practices.
Labor – Labor	The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is likely to cause an increase or decrease in the total amount of overall farm or ranch labor required for operations.
Labor - Change in Management Level	The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is likely to cause an increase or decrease in the total amount of required active management on a farm or ranch.
Risk – Yield	The degree to which risk, as related to crop or livestock yields, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.
Risk – Flexibility	The degree to which risk, as related to the flexibility of farm or ranch operations, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice. For example, converting from flood irrigation to a sprinkler system gives a farmer an increase in flexibility of irrigation, which results in a decrease in the level of risk associated with inflexibility of operations.
Risk – Timing	The degree to which risk, as related to the timing of farm or ranch operations, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.
Risk - Cash Flow	The degree to which risk, as related to cash flow in farm or ranch operations, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.
Profitability - Change in Profitability	The degree to which farm or ranch profitability is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.
Cultural Resources and/or Historic Properties Present or Suspected to be Present	The degree to which implementation of the conservation practice is expected to increase or decrease the risk of cultural resource disturbance, degradation, or loss.
Depletion of Fossil Fuel Resources	Inefficient use of fossil-originated energy sources (diesel, gasoline, propane, natural gas, coal), lubricants, and other materials.
Underutilization of Non-Fossil Energy Sources	Available and cost-effective alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biofuel, hydroelectric, geothermal) are not being used or are being used inefficiently.