



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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March 11, 2010

UTAH TECHNICAL GUIDE
450-III
NOTICE UT243

SUBJECT: TCH – FOTG, SECTION I – ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION (EE)
WORKSHEET (UT-NRCS-CPA-52)

Purpose. To transmit information regarding National Instruction 190, Part 305, the revised Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (UT-NRCS-CPA-52) and guidance on using Categorical Exclusions.

Effective Date. Begin using UT-NRCS-CPA-52 dated February 2010 and other guidance immediately.

Background Information. The national NRCS-CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation form was revised and updated in April 2009 to incorporate changes to the findings section of the form. National Instruction 190, Part 305 was issued in January 2010 to provide instructions to State offices on using the April 2009 NRCS-CPA-52 form.

An Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register July 13, 2009, added 21 new Categorical Exclusions NRCS can use to comply with NEPA.

Explanation. Previously, States were allowed to modify the NRCS-CPA-52 to meet State needs and requirements. After several Oversight and Evaluation reviews, the findings of these reviews concluded that there is a wide range and disparity in the NRCS-CPA-52 form being utilized by States. Some State forms did not contain essential elements of the national NRCS-CPA-52 form, including Coastal Zone Management Areas, Coral Reefs, and Essential Fish Habitat. The National Instruction allows for Guide Sheets for Special Environmental Concerns to be modified by States after approval by the National Environmental Coordinator.

Coastal Zone Management Areas, Coral Reefs, and Essential Fish Habitat are included in the revised UT-NRCS-CPA-52, but are not applicable to Utah. Therefore, “not applicable” or “N/A” should always be filled in all spreadsheet cells associated with those Special Environmental Concerns. The Guide Sheets for Special Environmental Concerns have been modified for Utah and approved by the National Environmental Coordinator.

Guidance on using Categorical Exclusions was developed by NRCS’ West Region Environmental Compliance Specialist in February 2010.

DIST: FOTG

March 11, 2010

Page 2

Training can be provided on the use of the revised UT-NRCS-CPA-52 and Categorical Exclusions on a field office or areawide basis. Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations should make a request for training to the State Resource Conservationist.

Filing Instructions. This notice will be filed in the eFOTG Section \FOTG Notices and Updates\Notices in the eFOTG. The UT-NRCS-CPA-52 and the guidance document "How to Use NRCS' Categorical Exclusions" will be filed in the eFOTG under the folder: Section \References & Technical Notes\NEPA.

Contact. Karen Fullen, State Wildlife Biologist, at (801) 524-4566 if you have questions on the NEPA and EE process or how to fill out the worksheet and Guide Sheets.



ELISE A. BOEKE

State Resource Conservationist

Attachments

cc:

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Karen Fullen, WB, NRCS, SLC, UT
Surrounding States