

Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (CPA-52)

Dayanna Barnes
Resource Conservationist
April 2023

Responsibilities

- Document existing Resource Concerns
- Display and evaluate the effects of various conservation options available to the client
- Estimate and record the effect conservation practice(s) have on a resource
- Comply with NEPA
 - National Environmental Policy Act (1970)

CPA-52 Worksheet

Located in Section III of the FOTG

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

A. Client Name: Joe and Cindy Farmer

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): NA
Program Authority (optional): CTA and EQIP

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

(Why is the producer working with NRCS, what are their goals?) Maintain barnyard area and improve grazing system. Increase production and convert to a no-till cropping system. Improve wildlife habitat.

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

Farm ###, Tract ###
Fields: Crop (C): 1, 3, 4, 5
Pasture (P): 2, 7, 8
Farmstead (FS): 6

E. Need for Action:

(Conservation Resource Need: What Resource Concerns are practice/plan/contract addressing?) Updated Conservation Plan to increase production, address water quality, and soil quality to meet planning criteria level.

H. Alternatives

No Action	✓ if RMS	Alternative 1	✓ if RMS	Alternative 2	✓ if RMS
Resource concerns related to water and soil quality remain untreated and the severity of their effects in the landscape will remain or worsen over time. Production factors will remain stagnant or decrease.	☐	Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.	☒	See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)	☐

Resource Concerns

In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC
SOIL						
Sheet and rill erosion	C - erosion remains or increases over current level; P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meets PC	☒		☐	C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)	☐
C - Rotation currently exceeds T (6.7 tons/ac/yr); P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS -no issues observed		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Ephemeral gully erosion	C- ephemeral gullies remains and worsens. Classic gullies begin to form	☒		☐	C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet	☐
C- F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Classic gully erosion	Meets PC	☐		☐	Meets PC	☐
No gully erosion observed		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

(Why is the producer working with NRCS, what are their goals?) Maintain barnyard area and improve grazing system. Increase production and convert to a no-till cropping system. Improve wildlife habitat.

A. Client Name:

Joe and Cindy Farmer

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

NA

Program Authority (optional): CTA and EQIP

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

Farm ###, Tract ###

Fields: Crop (C): 1, 3, 4, 5

Pasture (P): 2, 7, 8

Farmstead (FS): 6

E. Need for Action:

(Conservation Resource Need: What Resource Concerns are practice/plan/contract addressing?) Updated Conservation Plan to increase production, address water quality, and soil quality to meet planning criteria level.

H. Alternatives

No Action	✓ if RMS	Alternative 1	RMS	Alternative 2	✓ if RMS
Resource concerns related to water and soil quality remain untreated and the severity of their effects in the landscape will remain or worsen over time.	☐	Alternative 1 column same as Alternative 2 column noted.	☒	See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)	☐

Usually **one** CPA-52 form per land unit (i.e. field, tract, farm)

In Section "F" below, analyze (See FOTG Section III - Resource

Inventory process.

F. Resource Concerns and

Existing/ Benchmark Conditions
(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Alternative 1	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Alternative 2	✓ if does NOT meet PC
Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)		Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)		Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	
SOIL					
Sheet and rill erosion C - Rotation currently exceeds T (6.7 tons/ac/yr); P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - no issues observed	☒ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)	☐ NOT meet PC
Ephemeral gully erosion C- F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area	☒ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet	☐ NOT meet PC
Classic gully erosion	☐ NOT		☐ NOT	Meets PC	☐ NOT

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

(Why is the producer working with NRCS, what are their goals?) Maintain barnyard area and improve grazing system. Increase production and convert to a no-till cropping system. Improve wildlife habitat.

A. Client Name: Joe and Cindy Farmer

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): NA
Program Authority (optional): CTA and EQIP

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

Farm ###, Tract ###
Fields: Crop (C): 1, 3, 4, 5
Pasture (P): 2, 7, 8
Farmstead (FS): 6

E. Need for Action:

(Conservation Resource Need: What Resource Concerns are practice/plan/contract addressing?) Updated Conservation Plan to increase production, address water quality, and soil quality to meet planning criteria level.

H. Alternatives

No Action	✓ if RMS ☐	Alternative 1	✓ if RMS ☒	Alternative 2	✓ if RMS ☐
Resource concerns related to water and soil quality remain untreated and the severity of their effects in the landscape will remain or worsen over time. Production factors will remain stagnant or decrease.		Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.		See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)	

Resource Concerns

In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).

F. Resource Concerns and Alternatives

Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
			Amount, Status, Description	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description	✓ if does NOT meet PC
SOIL						
Sheet and rill erosion						
C - Rotation currently exists (6.7 tons/ac/yr); P - meets planning criteria (PC); F - issues observed		☐		NOT meet PC	C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)	NOT meet PC
Ephemeral gully erosion		☒		NOT meet PC	C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet	NOT meet PC
C- F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Classic gully erosion		☐		NOT meet PC	Meets PC	NOT meet PC
No gully erosion observed		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

Step 1

What Resource Concern(s) are being addressed by plan? Why is NRCS working with the Client?

A. Client Name: Joe and Cindy Farmer

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

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

Farm ###, Tract ###
Fields: Crop (C): 1, 3, 4, 5
Pasture (P): 2, 7, 8
Farmstead (FS): 6

h. Alternatives

No Action	✓ if RMS	
Resource concerns related to water and soil quality remain untreated and the severity of their effects in the lake will remain or worsen over time.		
Production factors will remain stagnant or decrease.		

Alternative 1 ☒ if RMS ☒

Alternative 2	✓ if RMS	☐
See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)		

Step 2

Why is the producer (client) working with NRCS? What are their goals?

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Amount, Status, Description

(Document both short and long term impacts)

✓ if
does
NOT
meet
PC

(Document both short and long term impacts)

Amount, Status, Description
(Document both short and long term impacts)

✓ if
does
NOT
meet
PC

C - erosion remains or increases over current level; P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meets PC

Sheet and rill erosion

C - Rotation currently exceeds T (6.7 tons/ac/yr); P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - no issues observed

C - erosion remains or increases over current level; P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meets PC

☐ NOT

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☐	C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)
--------------------------	--

☐ NOT

Ephemeral gully erosion

C- F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area

C- ephemeral gullies remains and worsens. Classic gullies begin to form

☒

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☐	C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet
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5

Classic gully erosion

Meets PC

☐ NOT meet PC

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Meets PC

☐ NOT meet PC

No gully erosion observed

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET		NRCS-CPA-52 11/2019		A. Client Name: Joe and Cindy Farmer	
				B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): NA Program Authority (optional): CTA and EQIP	
D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): (What is the client's objective for this planning area?)		C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required): Farm ###, Tract ### Fields: Crop (C): 1, 3, 4, 5 Pasture (P): 2, 7, 8 Farmstead (FS): 6			
E. Need for Conservation Plan (What Resource Concerns are identified in the planning area?)		H. Alternatives			
		No Action ✓ if RMS ☐		Alternative 1 ✓ if RMS ☒	
		Resource concerns related to water and soil erosion remain untreated and the effects in the landscape will remain or worsen over time. Production factors will remain stagnant or decrease.		Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.	
				Alternative 2 ✓ if RMS ☐ See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)	
Resource Concerns					
In Section I below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).					
F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)		I. Effects of Alternatives			
		No Action		Alternative 1	
		Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts)	✓ if does NOT meet PC
				Alternative 2	
SOIL					
Sheet and rill erosion		C - erosion remains or increases over current level; P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meets PC		C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)	
C - Rotation currently exceeds T (6.7 tons/ac/yr); P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS -no issues observed		☒ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	
Ephemeral gully erosion		C - F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area		C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet	
C - F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area		☐ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	
Classic gully erosion		Meets PC		Meets PC	
		☐		☐	

Identify the present condition of the planning area

Step 3

Benchmark/Existing Condition needs to be documented

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

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(Why is the producer working with NRCS, what are their goals?) Maintain barnyard area and improve grazing system. Increase production and convert to a no-till cropping system. Improve wildlife habitat.

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

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E. Need for Action:

(Conservation Resource Need: What Resource Concerns are practice/plan/contract addressing?) Updated Conservation Plan to increase production, address water quality, and soil quality to meet planning criteria level.

H. Alternatives

No Action

✓ if RMS ☐

Alternative 1

✓ if RMS ☒

Alternative 2

✓ if RMS ☐

Resource concerns related to water and soil quality remain untreated and the severity of their effects in the landscape will remain or worsen over time. Production factors will remain stagnant or decrease.

Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.

See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)

Step 4

In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).

F. Resource Concerns and

Existing/ Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

(Document both short and long term impacts)

(Document both short and long term impacts)

(Document both short and long term impacts)

SOIL

Sheet and rill erosion

C - erosion remains or increases over current level; P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meets PC

☒

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)

☐

NOT meet PC

Ephemeral gully erosion

C- ephemeral gullies remains and worsens. Classic gullies begin to form

☒

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet

☐

NOT meet PC

Classic gully erosion

Meets PC

☐

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

Meets PC

☐

NOT meet PC

No gully erosion observed

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

(Why is the producer working with NRCS, what are the goals?) Updated Conservation Plan to increase production, address water quality, and soil quality to meet planning criteria level.

Alternatives that meet both individual (preferred alternative) and societal (RMS) objectives should be considered.

Step 5

E. Need for Action:

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H. Alternatives

No Action

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Alternative 1

✓ if RMS ☒

Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.

Alternative 2

✓ if RMS ☐

See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)

Resource Concerns

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F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions
(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description

✓ if does NOT meet PC

(Document both short and long term impacts)

(Document both short and long term impacts)

(Document both short and long term impacts)

SOIL

Sheet and rill erosion

C - erosion remains or increases over current level; P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meets PC



NOT meet PC

C - Rotation currently exceeds T (6.7 tons/ac/yr); P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - no issues observed

Ephemeral gully erosion

C- ephemeral gullies remains and worsens. Classic gullies begin to form



NOT meet PC

C- F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area



NOT meet PC

C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)



NOT meet PC

C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet



NOT meet PC

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

(Why is the producer working with NRCS, what are their goals?) Maintain barnyard area and improve grazing system. Increase production and convert to a no-till cropping system. Improve wildlife habitat.

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Alternative 1

✓ if RMS ☒

Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.

Alternative 2

✓ if RMS ☐

See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)

Resource Concerns

In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).

F. Resource Concerns and

Existing/ Benchmark Conditions
(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Amount, Status, Description
(Document both short and long term impacts)

✓ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description
(Document both short and long term impacts)

✓ if does NOT meet PC

Amount, Status, Description
(Document both short and long term impacts)

✓ if does NOT meet PC

SOIL

Sheet and rill erosion

C - erosion remains or increases over current level; P - meets planning criteria (PC); FS - meet PC

☒

NOT meet PC

Step 6

C- Erosion reduced to T (3.1 tons/ac/yr); P - maintain vegetation, meets PC; FS - meets PC (no change)

☐

NOT meet PC

Ephemeral gully erosion

C- ephemeral gullies remains and worsens. Classic gullies begin to form

☒

NOT meet PC

☐

NOT meet PC

C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet

☐

NOT meet PC

C- F1 has erosion due to seep and unprotected concentrated flow area

barnyard area and improve grazing system. Increase production and convert to a no-till cropping system. Improve wildlife habitat.

Fields: Crop (C): 1, 3, 4, 5
Pasture (P): 2, 7, 8
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Alternative 1 ✓ if RMS ☒
Alternative 1 column is the same as Alternative 2 column unless noted.

Alternative 2 ✓ if RMS ☐
See Conservation Plan, dated 10.5.2020 (Progressive Plan)

Resource Concerns

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(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

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No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
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C- ephemeral gullies remains and worsens. Classic gullies begin to form	☒ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	C- F1 Diversion will collect upslope water and direct it to a stable outlet	☐ NOT meet PC
Meets PC	☐ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	Meets PC	☐ NOT meet PC

PLANTS						
Plant productivity and health	C - Production issues continue; P - meets PC; FS - NA	☒		☐	C - improve plants with proper high tunnel management and soil testing; P - no effect; FS - no effect	☐
C - Vegetable plants not adapted to site, poor yield, frequent frost damage; P - no concerns noted; FS - NA		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Plant structure and composition	C - NA; P - Plant diversity issues persist, undesirable species increase; FS - NA	☒		☐	C & FS - no effect; P - pasture management and reseeding will improve composition	☐
C - NA; P - poor plant diversity. Presence of undesirable reed canary grass; FS - NA		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Plant pest pressure	Producer manages. C & P - problematic species remain and populations increase; FS - none	☒		☐	No invasive or noxious species will be introduced. Producer will maintain control over existing. - - OR - - C - continue to manage; P - pasture management and reseeding will reduce weed pressure; FS - no effect	☐
C - minimal Jimsonweed and Johnson grass in Fields 1 & 3; P - Multiflora rose and Canada thistle present; FS - none		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
ANIMALS						
Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	Wildlife habitat remains diminished due to cropping and grazing strategies	☒	Wildlife cover increased through buffer establishment. Wildlife habitat worksheet > 0.5	☐	No change - PC not met. See worksheet	☒
Inadequate cover throughout year due to cropping practices and intensive grazing (See PA Wildlife Evaluation - - OR - - Inadequate, PA Wildlife Evaluation Crop 0.3 and Pasture 0.4		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms	P- aquatic habitat remains disturbed and disrupted; C & FS- NA	☒		☐	P- livestock excluded from stream reducing stream bank and stream bed degradation	☐
P- livestock have access to the stream; C & FS- NA		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Feed and forage imbalance	P - forage needs remains in a deficit and deficit increases; C & FS - meets PC	☒		☐	P - improved quality and quantity through implementing 528, rotational grazing, reseeding	☐
P - Forage stand in Field 8 is limited by overgrazing; C & FS - no concerns observed		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. (continued)					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	√ if does NOT meet PC
AIR						
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	Potential concern remains -- OR -- No impacts anticipated, NA (PC met)	☒		☐	Planned practices have positive effect, reduce PM 2.5 -- OR -- No Change	☐
Tract located in PM 2.5 county. -- OR -- Tract not located in PM 2.5 county, NA (PC met)		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Emissions of Ozone Precursors	No impacts anticipated	☐		☐	Practices have positive effect on ozone precursors	☐
In attainment		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

Applicable in PA when county is an EPA non-attainment county for PM 2.5 and/or 8 hour ozone

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)	I. (continued)					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	✓ if does NOT meet PC	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	✓ if does NOT meet PC
PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION						
Undesirable plant productivity and health <i>Formerly Plants not adapted or suited, & Productivity, Health and Vigor, & Forage Quality and Palatability</i>	C - Vegetable plants not adapted to site, poor yield, frequent frost damage; P - meets PC; FS - meets PC	☒ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	C - improve plants with proper high tunnel management and soil testing; P - no effect; FS - no effect	☐ NOT meet PC
Inadequate structure and composition <i>NEW</i>	C - NA; P - poor plant diversity. Presence of undesirable reed canary grass; FS - NA	☒ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	C & FS - no effect; P - pasture management and reseeding will improve composition	☐ NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure <i>NEW</i>	Producer manages. C - minimal Jimsonweed and Johnson grass in Fields 1 & 3; P - Multiflora rose and Canada thistle present; FS - none	☒ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC	No invasive or noxious species will be introduced. Producer will maintain control over existing. -- OR -- C - continue to manage; P - pasture manage and reseeding will reduce weed pressure; FS - no effect	☐ NOT meet PC
Other		☐ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC		☐ NOT meet PC

Human Economic and Social Considerations			
Public Health and Safety	No Change		Public health improved through improved surface and ground water quality, ag waste safety features installed.
Omitted due to sensitive information			
Land Use	Continued ag use		No changes to non-ag use planned or anticipated
Ag use			
Capital	Capital losses continue and increase	Further increase in capital from improving energy efficiency	Increase in capital from improved crop and forage productivity and yields
Capital losses incurred due to farming operation inefficiencies			
Management Level	Management level remains stagnant or increases		Moderate management level remains
Moderate management required for farming operations			
Other			

Special Environmental Concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, policies, etc.

In Section "G" complete and attach Environmental Procedures Guide Sheets for documentation as applicable. 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.

G. Special Environmental Concerns	H. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	✓ if needs further action
(Document existing/ benchmark conditions)						
●Clean Air Act Guide Sheet NA: in attainment - - OR - - PM2.5/Ozone nonattainment county	NA - - OR - - potential impacts remain	☐		☐	May Effect NA - - OR - - Practices planned have positive impact on air quality	☐
●Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet No water bodies exist on farm - - OR - - 303(d) listed stream due to nutrients and suspended solids	NA - - OR - - potential impacts remain	☐		☐	No Effect No actions planned that result in discharge of dredge or fill materials. Planned actions reduce nutrients, pathogens, and sediment entered stream and wetland. No NPDES permits required	☐
●Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet NA - - OR - - Located in Lake Erie Coast Zone	NA - - OR - - negative effects on CZM	☐		☐	No Effect NA - - OR - - Planned actions in compliance with CZM	☐
Coral Reefs Guide Sheet NA - does not exist in PA	NA - does not exist in PA	☐		☐	NA - does not exist in PA	☐

G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action
• Clean Air Act <i>Guide Sheet</i> NA: in attainment - - OR - - PM2.5/Ozone nonattainment county	NA - - OR - - potential impacts remain	☐		☐	May Effect NA - - OR - - Practices planned have positive impact on air quality	☐
• Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet</i> No water bodies exist on farm - - OR - - 303(d) listed stream due to nutrients and suspended solids	NA - - OR - - potential impacts remain	☐		☐	No Effect No actions planned that result in discharge of dredge or fill materials. Planned actions reduce nutrients, pathogens, and sediment entered stream and wetland. No NPDES permits required	☐

Clean Water Act – Waters of the U.S. Special Aquatic Sites

Pennsylvania –

1. NRCS assisted actions that potentially impact Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, or Special Aquatic Sites must be coordinated with PA DEP. Should advise clients that dredge and fill activities in Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, require a general permit or 404 permit. Must try to avoid dredge and fill activities in fish and wildlife sanctuaries, wetlands, mud flats, vegetated shallows, and riffle-pool complexes. If special aquatic sites cannot be avoided, impacts should be minimized and if necessary mitigated (40 CFR Part 230, Disposal Sites for Dredge and Fill). Sometimes PA DEP can facilitate coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. NRCS may assist clients in developing a permit application, but the client must submit the application themselves.
2. If the planned action or alternative is located in proximity to waters listed by the State as “impaired” under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the action should comply with any TMDLs or Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRASs) developed for the watershed. In most cases, planned activities will be compatible with these plans and should be so stated.
TMDLs are on the PA DEP webpage: <http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/TMDL/>. WRASs are on the PA DEP webpage: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=554276&mode=2>.
3. Determine if the planned action or alternative is likely to result in point-source discharges from developments, construction sites, or other areas of soil disturbance, or sewer discharges (i.e. projects involving stormwater ponds of point-source pollution including CAFOs for which CNMPs are being developed). Section 402 of the CWA requires a permit for these activities through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program which the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania administers.

•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Multiple buildings greater than 50 years old -- OR -- Not present in planning area	No Effect No impacts	☒		☐	No Effect See CRRW. All practices reviewed for impact	☐
•Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Positive PNDI search result - 1 potential impact. -- OR -- No PNDI hits	May B Poter NA				documentation) -- OR -- Upon review, NA (see PNDI receipt	
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet NA- none identified	NA	☐		☐	No Effect No disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations	☐
•Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet NA - does not exist in PA	NA	☐		☐	NA - does not exist in PA	☐
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet No 100-year floodplain exists (NA) -- OR -- 100-year	NA -- OR -- No change	☐		☐	No Effect NA -- OR -- Activities will not change or otherwise impact floodplains	☐
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Invasive species present and not managed	C & P- Invasive species remain and population increases	☐		☐	No Effect Producer will control existing invasive species. No invasive or noxious species will be introduced	☐
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Moderate quality habitat for migratory birds exists.	No change	☐		☐	No Effect No measurable adverse impacts	☐
Natural Areas Guide Sheet NA- none identified -- OR -- Site is recognized as a locally significant natural area	NA -- OR -- No change	☐		☐	No Effect NA -- OR -- Planned actions will not negatively impact the functions and values of the natural area	☐
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance exists.	No change	☐		☐	No Effect No adverse impacts, no important farmland will be converted to non-ag use	☐

Contact Christopher Plount for PA Process

•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Multiple buildings greater than 50 years old - - OR - - Not present in planning area	No Effect No impacts	☒		☐	No Effect See CRRW. All practices reviewed for impact	☐
•Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Positive PNDI search result - 1 potential impact. - - OR - - No PNDI hits	May Effect Potential impacts remain. - - OR - - NA	☒		☐	No Effect Avoidance measures followed - - OR - - DCNR contacted (see documentation) - - OR - - Upon review, NA (see PNDI receipt)	☐
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet NA- none identified					No Effect No disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations	☐
•Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet NA - does not exist in PA	NA	☐		☐	NA - does not exist in PA	☐
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet No 100-year floodplain exists (NA) - - OR - - 100-year	NA - - OR - - No change	☐		☐	No Effect NA - - OR - - Activities will not change or otherwise impact floodplains	☐
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Invasive species present and not managed	C & P- Invasive species remain and population increases	☐		☐	No Effect Producer will control existing invasive species. No invasive or noxious species will be introduced	☐
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Moderate quality habitat for migratory birds exists.	No change	☐		☐	No Effect No measurable adverse impacts	☐
Natural Areas Guide Sheet NA- none identified - - OR - - Site is recognized as a locally significant natural area	NA - - OR - - No change	☐		☐	No Effect NA - - OR - - Planned actions will not negatively impact the functions and values of the natural area	☐
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance exists.	No change	☐		☐	No Effect No adverse impacts, no important farmland will be converted to non-ag use	☐

Follow Pennsylvania PNDI Process

Guide Sheet Multiple buildings greater than 50 years old -- OR -- Not present in planning area		☐		☐	for impact	☐
•Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Positive PNDI search result - 1 potential impact. -- OR -- No PNDI hits	May Effect Potential impacts remain. -- OR -- NA	☒		☐	No Effect Avoidance measures followed -- OR -- DCNR contacted (see documentation) -- OR -- Upon review, NA (see PNDI receipt)	☐
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet NA- none identified	NA	☐		☐	No Effect No disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations	☐
Environmental Justice	Summary – Must identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of federally assisted activities on minority or low-income populations. (220-GM, Part 402)					
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet No 100-year floodplain exists (NA) -- OR -- 100-year	NA -- OR -- No change	☐		☐	No Effect NA -- OR -- Activities will not change or otherwise impact floodplains	☐
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Invasive species present and not managed	C & P- Invasive species remain and population increases	☐		☐	No Effect Producer will control existing invasive species. No invasive or noxious species will be introduced	☐
•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Moderate quality habitat for migratory birds exists.	No change	☐		☐	No Effect No measurable adverse impacts	☐
Natural Areas Guide Sheet NA- none identified -- OR -- Site is recognized as a locally significant natural area	NA -- OR -- No change	☐		☐	No Effect NA -- OR -- Planned actions will not negatively impact the functions and values of the natural area	☐
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance exists.	No change	☐		☐	No Effect No adverse impacts, no important farmland will be converted to non-ag use	☐

●Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Practice Effects Guidance, National Register, State Website	Not present in planning area -- OR -- Multiple buildings greater than 50 years old.	☐		☐	No Effect See CRRW. All practices reviewed for impact.	☐
●Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet PNDI	Positive PNDI search result - 1 potential impact. No other indications of T&E or listed species. -- OR -- No PNDI hits	☐		☐	No Effect Avoidance measures followed -- OR -- DCNR contacted (see documentation) -- OR -- Upon review, NA (see PNDI receipt)	☐
Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Observation, census	NA - none identified	☐		☐	No Effect No disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations	☐
●Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet NA in PA	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	☐	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	☐	Not applicable - does not exist in PA	☐
Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet FEMA - FIRM, Soils	No 100 year floodplain exists (NA) -- OR -- 100 year floodplain exists	☐		☐	No Effect NA -- OR -- Activities will not change or otherwise impact floodplain	☐
Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Observation, landowner	Producer manages. C - minimal Jimsonweed and Johnson grass in Fields 1 & 3; P - Multiflora rose and Canada thistle present; FS - none	☐		☐	No Effect Producer will control existing invasive species. No invasive or noxious species will be introduced.	☐
●Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet PNDI, observation	Moderate quality habitat for migratory birds exists.	☐		☐	No effect - No measurable adverse impacts. -- OR -- May effect - Improved habitat through XXX practice(s).	☐
Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet	NA - no formally or informally designated natural area exists	☐		☐	No Effect	☐
Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Soils	XXX acres of prime farmland -- OR -- prime farmland exists -- OR -- NA	☐		☐	No Effect No adverse impacts, no important farmland will be converted to non-ag use. -- OR -- NA	☐
Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Observation, water bodies	Animal access to stream riparian area results in limited tree shading, reduced water quality, and fragmented wildlife corridors. -- OR -- NA - No riparian (surface water) area exists.	☐	May Effect Animal access to streams completely restricted resulting in further water quality improvement.	☐	May Effect Animal access to stream limited, resulting in improved water quality, increase tree cover, and improved wildlife corridors. -- OR -- NA	☐

Riparian Area

Summary – Plans involving riparian area management must **maintain or improve water quality and quantity benefits**. (190-GM, Part 411)

Riparian Area Guide Sheet Animal access to stream results in limited tree shading, reduced water quality, and fragmented wildlife corridors - - OR - - NA- No riparian area exists	Negative impacts continue - - OR - NA	☐	☐	May Effect Animal access to stream limited, resulting in improved water quality, increased tree cover, and improved wildlife corridors - - OR - - NA	☐
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Viewshed is comprised of agricultural and forested land	No change	☐	☐	May Effect Viewshed considered, practices planned to minimize impacts	☐
• Wetlands Guide Sheet Wetland area identified and determined by NRCS - - OR - - Wetland determination complete, no wetlands exist - - OR - - No wetland determination exists	No change	☐	☐	No Effect No draining or filling planned. Planned actions will maintain vegetative cover and reduce delivery of sediment, nutrients, and organic materials to wetlands - - OR - - NA - - OR - - Wetland determination complete, wetland exists / does not exist, no effect	☐
• Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Scenic river exists - - OR - - No scenic river exists	No change	☐	☐	No Effect Compatible with Yellow Breeches Creek Scenic Rivers designation - - OR - - NA	☐

Riparian Area Guide Sheet Animal access to stream results in limited tree shading, reduced water quality, and fragmented wildlife corridors -- OR -- NA- No riparian area exists	Negative impacts continue -- OR -- - NA	☐	☐	May Effect Animal access to stream limited, resulting in improved water quality, increased tree cover, and improved wildlife corridors -- OR -- NA	☐
Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Viewshed is comprised of agricultural and forested land	No change	☐	☐	May Effect Viewshed considered, practices planned to minimize impacts	☐
•Wetlands Guide Sheet Wetland area identified and determined by NRCS -- OR -- Wetland determination complete, no wetlands exist -- OR -- No wetland determination exists	No change	☐	☐	No Effect No draining or filling planned. Planned actions will maintain vegetative cover and reduce delivery of sediment, nutrients, and organic materials to wetlands -- OR -- NA -- OR -- Wetland determination complete, wetland exists / does not exist, no effect	☐
•Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Scenic river exists -- OR -- scenic river exists				No Effect	

Follow Pennsylvania Wetland Review Procedures

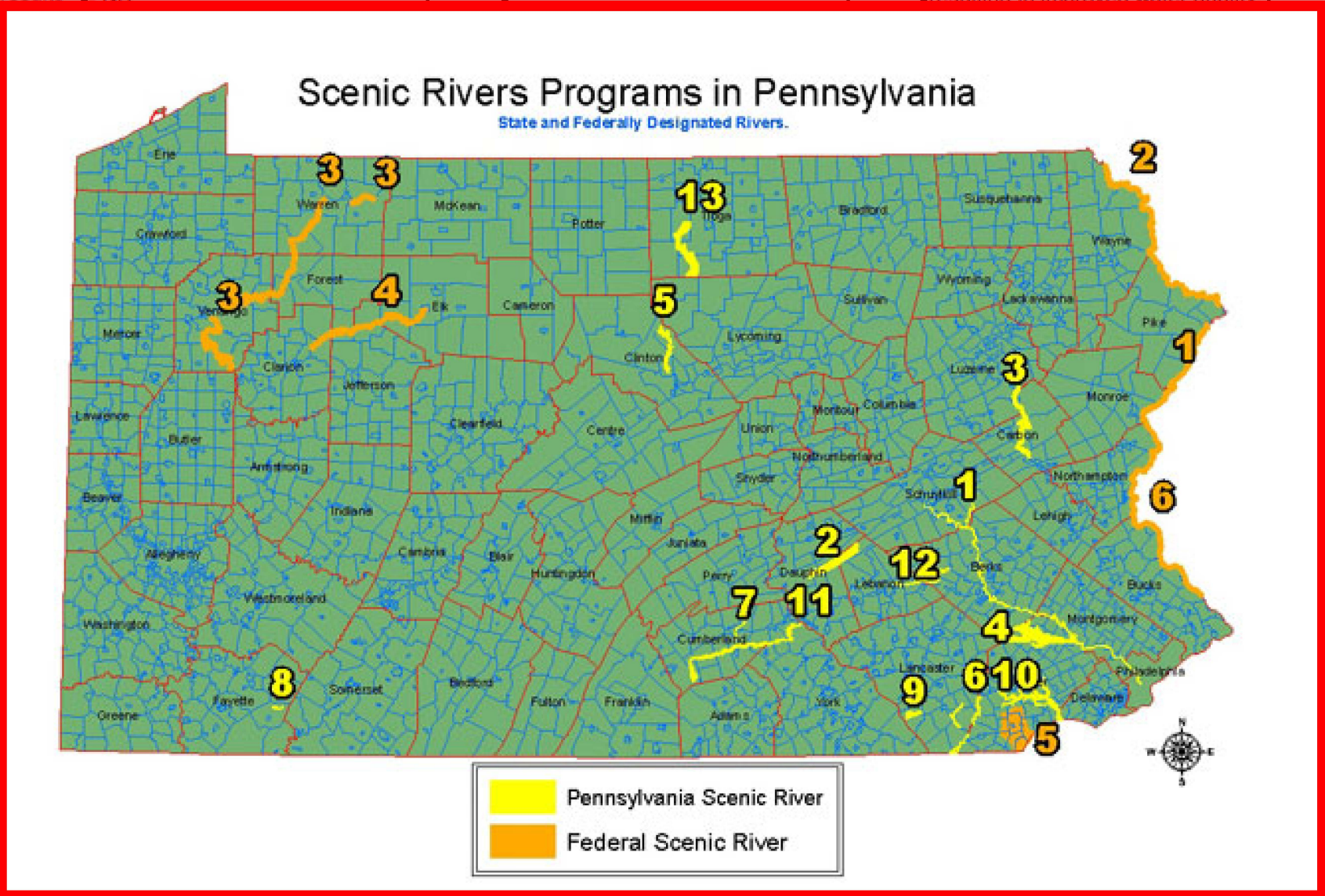
Riparian Area				May Effect	
Guide Sheet	Negative impacts continue -- OR --	☐		Animal access to stream limited,	☐
Animal access to stream results	-- NA			resulting in improved water quality	

in limited tree shading, re
water quality, and fragme
wildlife corridors -- OR --
No riparian area exists

Scenic Beauty
[Guide Sheet](#)
Viewshed is comprised o
agricultural and forested

Wetlands
Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wild and Scenic Rivers
[Guide Sheet](#)
Scenic river exists -- OR --
scenic river exists



K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns	No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.	NA -- OR -- Farmland Preservation / WRE / etc. easement exists -- OR -- CREP contract for riparian area with FSA		NA -- OR -- WRE easement, GP-9 needed, and PNDI Consultation with DCNR in progress -- OR -- CREP contract for riparian area with FSA
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)	Continued sheet & rill, ephemeral gully, and streambank erosion and water quality degradation		Existing and planned practices in local watershed will cumulatively improve all resources except as noted: None
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)	None needed		None needed

M. Preferred Alternative	✓ preferred alternative	☐	☐	☒
	Supporting reason		Producer not interested in secondary containment system, establishing wildlife habitat, and CFLs and vacuum pump at this time	Producer has agreed to implement plan once NRCS FA becomes available

N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis)	local	Lower Yellow Breeches Creek	Chesapeake Bay Watershed
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.			

O. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:

In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.

Qualified* <u>non-NRCS</u> individual Signature (TSP if applicable)	Title	Date
RFO <u>or</u> qualified* NRCS employee Signature (NRCS)	Title	Date

*For more information about the requirements to be a Qualified Planner, refer to PA Supplemental Policy GM 130, Part 400.14, Supplement 5

If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.

Farm Service Agency

K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns		No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2			
Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.		NA -- OR -- Farmland Preservation / WRE / etc. easement exists -- OR -- CREP contract for riparian area with FSA		NA -- OR -- WRE easement, GP-9 needed, and PNDI Consultation with DCNR in progress -- OR -- CREP contract for riparian area with FSA			
Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)		Continued sheet & rill, ephemeral gully, and streambank erosion and water quality degradation		Existing and planned practices in local watershed will cumulatively improve all resources except as noted: None			
L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)		None needed		None needed			
M. Preferred Alternative	✓ preferred alternative	☐	☐	☒			
	Supporting reason		Producer not interested in containment system, established habitat, and CFLs and vacuum pump at this time.	Producers not interested in containment system, established habitat, and CFLs and vacuum pump at this time.			
Step 7							
N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">local</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Lower Yellow Breeches Creek</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Chesapeake Bay Watershed</td> </tr> </table>					local	Lower Yellow Breeches Creek	Chesapeake Bay Watershed
local	Lower Yellow Breeches Creek	Chesapeake Bay Watershed					
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.							
O. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete: In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.							
Qualified* <u>non-NRCS</u> individual Signature (TSP if applicable)		Title		Date			
RFO <u>or</u> qualified* NRCS employee Signature (NRCS)		Title		Date			
*For more information about the requirements to be a Qualified Planner, refer to PA Supplemental Policy GM 130, Part 400.14, Supplement 5							

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)		
The preferred alternative:		Action required
☐ CTA	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
☐ Use when applicable	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
☐ FA program when #2 is not applicable	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
☐ N/A in PA	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its 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. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
☐ Call State Office	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.
R. Rationale Supporting the Finding		
R.1 Findings Documentation	Finding 1- CTA Planning only, all fields except Field 5 -- OR -- Finding 2- Cat. Ex. #XX -- OR -- EQIP, NRCS, Environmental Assessment, December 2019	
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply)	(20) Implementing soil control measures on existing agricultural lands, such as grade stabilization structures (pipe drops), sediment basins, terraces, grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian forest buffer, and critical area planting; (Remember - if selecting a Cat. Ex., <u>all</u> practices within the plan must be covered by one or more Cat. Ex.)	
7 CFR Part 650 Compliance With NEPA, subpart 650.6 Categorical Exclusions states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.	(1) Planting appropriate herbaceous and woody vegetation, which does not include noxious weeds or invasive plants, on disturbed sites to restore and maintain the sites ecological functions and services; Requires that the established vegetative community maintain the sites ecological functions and services, which could not be accomplished by converting native forests or grasslands	
<i>I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.</i> S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official: RFO - Typically District Conservationist and/or Supervisory DC _____ Signature _____ Title _____ Date		

EE Worksheet Summary

- Use action words:
 - Enhanced, Improved, Reduced
 - Increased, Decreased, Converted
 - In compliance
 - Compatible with management plan
 - NA (be careful)
 - No Change
 - No Effect
- Do not use “significant” unless it actually applies (get assistance before using it)
- Quantify whenever possible (ac, tons, hours)
- Keep it brief (maintain separate supporting data)

EE Worksheet – Take Home Message

- Must be completed for all NRCS conservation planning and program assistance.
- Must complete all sections
- Benchmark condition needs to be documented
- Must be signed & dated by qualified person
- FINDING must be signed and dated (NRCS RFO must sign Finding for its programs)
- When conservation plan is revised, the EE Worksheet needs to be updated.