

Memorandum

Date: December 12, 2019

To: Administrative Record of *Deepwater Horizon* NRDA

From: USDA Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Team

Subject: Site-specific environmental compliance documents completed to date for the Mississippi Trustee Implementation Group's (TIG) Upper Pascagoula Water Quality Enhancement (UPWQE) project

The programmatic environmental compliance review for this project can be found in the *Mississippi Trustee Implementation Group 2016-2017 Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment* (RP/EA). Conservation practices to be implemented for this project fall within USDA categorical exclusions and therefore would not normally require an environmental assessment or impact statement if implemented under USDA authority. However, because this project is funded under the DWH NRDA consent decree and not all trustees have such categorical exclusions, the Mississippi TIG created an environmental assessment tool--the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (EEW)--to aid in site-specific component planning, decision-making, and environmental compliance. A separate site-specific EEW is completed for each project component. The first seven EEWs for the UPWQE are included below.

USDA has determined and documented therein that the planned actions will not exceed the maximum adverse impacts described in the RP/EA. There are no actions being proposed that would result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment. The landowner outreach program, conservation planning activities, and creation and implementation of conservation plans do not require further environmental review. Excerpts from the RP/EA relative to the NEPA approach for the UPWQE project are included at the end of this document.

Relative to the projects listed in the table below, site-specific Clean Water Act permits are not required because there are no conservation practices planned for implementation on the banks of or within waters of the United States.

Relative to the projects listed in the table below, site-specific consultation for the National Historic Preservation Act is not required because there are no known or high-probability cultural resources sites located on the treatment acres.

Table of Site-Specific Environmental Evaluation Worksheet

| ID | HUC-12 Watershed | County | Acres |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Upper Sowashee Creek | Lauderdale County | 143.7 |
| 2 | Upper Sowashee Creek | Lauderdale County | 28.4 |
| 3 | Upper Sowashee Creek | Lauderdale County | 60.5 |
| 4 | Dunnagin Creek | Newton | 301.8 |
| 5 | Dunnagin Creek | Newton | 219.4 |
| 6 | Upper Sowashee Creek | Lauderdale County | 106 |
| 7 | Dunnagin Creek | Newton | 193 |

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

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

Client wants to ensure sustainability of pasturelands by protecting soil health, preventing the transport of excess nutrients and animal waste, and improving the productivity of adaptable forages.

A. Client Name: [REDACTED]

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):
Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED]

C. Identification # (farm, trad, field #, etc as required):
[REDACTED]

E. Need for Action:

Pastureland is overgrazed. Forage quality and quantity is inadequate for production goals of livestock (beef cattle).

H. Alternatives

| No Action | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 1 | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 2 | ✓ if RMS |
|--|----------|--|----------|---------------|----------|
| Leave site as is and with no change in management. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Implement the following practices to improve health/productivity of pasture: 590 Nutrient Management, 382 Fence, 578 Stream Crossing, 315 Herbaceous Weed Control, 342 Critical Area Stabilization, 390 Riparian Cover, 576 Shade Structure, and 561 Heavy Use Area. | | | |

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 | Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts) | ✓ if does NOT meet PC | Alternative 1 | Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts) | ✓ if does NOT meet PC | Alternative 2 | Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts) | ✓ if does NOT meet PC |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------|
|-----------|--|-----------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------|

SOIL: EROSION

No resource concern identified

NOT

NOT

NOT

No resource concern identified

NOT

NOT

NOT

SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION

compaction

Continuous grazing and high stocking rates will continue to result in soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Livestock trails are common throughout the pasture. Infiltration capacity is lowered and surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss and soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth, animal habitat and soil biological activity, especially on existing trails. Overgrazed lands will not heal naturally. Pasture will continue to deteriorate.

NOT

meet
PC

implementation of conservation practices results in grazing and livestock activities being managed to meet Client's production goals and objectives. Grazing management will encourage more uniform use of paddocks, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended. Soil compaction will no longer be a problem and activities will not cause soil compaction problems.

NOT

meet
PC

NOT

meet
PC

No resource concern identified

NOT

NOT

NOT

WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER

No resource concern identified

NOT

NOT

NOT

WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION

Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters

Overgrazing will continue. Surface runoff will continue to carry animal waste and nutrients to receiving waters. Overgrazed lands will not heal naturally. Water quality will continue to deteriorate.

NOT

meet
PC

Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water quality will improve.

NOT

meet
PC

NOT

meet
PC

No resource concern identified

NOT

NOT

NOT

| 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 (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 |
| AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION | | | | | | |
| Undesirable plant productivity and health Fields overgrazed, Recovery after grazing takes at least 1 week longer than normal. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are regularly at least 10-30% below site potential. | Fields will remain overgrazed, Recovery after grazing will take at least 1 week longer than normal. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality will continue to not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields will regularly be at least 10-30% below site potential. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management will reduce grazing pressure improving productivity and vigor of desirable forage species. Results in rapid plant recovery after grazing. More than 80% of the plants appear turgid and of natural green color. There are no signs of insect or disease damage. Yields are near the potential for the species. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| Excessive plant pest pressure Fields overgrazed: contains < 80% desirable species. Undesirable broadleaf weeds and annual weedy grasses invading. Some woody species invading. Competition from undesired plants causes low quality and palatability of available forages. | Undesirable weedy and woody species will continue to flourish. Low plant species diversity. Quality and palatability of available forages will remain low. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management will reduce grazing pressure on desirable species. Healthier plants will out compete undesirable invading species. Quality and palatability of desirable forages will improve. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION | | | | | | |
| Inadequate feed and forage Feed and forage quality or quantity is inadequate for livestock nutritional needs and client's production goals due to overgrazing. Livestock performance and body condition is poor. Health and vigor of the herd has been reduced. | Feed and forage quality or quantity will continue to be inadequate for livestock nutritional needs and client's production goals due to overgrazing. Livestock performance and body condition will remain poor. Health and vigor of the herd is still reduced. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management will significantly increase the quantity and quality of desirable forages. Forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements are addressed resulting in livestock nutritional needs being met and livestock performance and body condition improvement. Client's production | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT |
| HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | | | | | |
| Management Level Minimal effort to establish grazing management practices such as stocking rates and/or location and timing of grazing. | No change in management effort. | | Increased management to ensure more uniform use of paddocks, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended and ensure sustainability of pasturelands. | | | |
| Profitability Increasing feed cost, decreasing animal / performance / productivity, farm income limited. | Profitability will continue to decrease. | | More uniform use of paddocks, managing stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjusting the timing or season of grazing as recommended and ensuring sustainability of pasturelands will reduce feed cost, improve animal / performance / productivity, and boost farm income. | | | |

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 (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 Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No non-attainment areas in the state. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 0.75 miles Waters of the US present in grazing area. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not located in CZM. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coral Reefs present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No CR present. | No Effect Exempt Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect Exempt Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No T&E species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No adverse social and economic effects to consider. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not in 100 yr. floodplain. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | Noxious/invasive species must be monitored and controlled if detected. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 143.7 ac. of existing migratory bird habitat; no eagles or nests observed. | No Effect Continuing same practices will result in same habitat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Mgt. practices allow for rest periods that provide sufficient time for young of migratory birds to fledge from nests and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended. 143.7 ac. of migratory bird habitat will be | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No natural areas present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 45 ac prime, unique or other important farmland (See soil map.) | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 2 ac of functional riparian area. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Grazing mgt. will encourage more uniform use of pastures, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels, &/or adjust the timing/season of grazing as recommended. 2 ac. of riparian area will be enhanced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No significant aesthetic qualities identified. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| •Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| •Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns | No Action | Alternative 1 | | | Alternative 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted. | <p>A grazing plan using C-Grazing Management Application version 2.0 with Pasture condition Score assessment will be required. No easement, Permissions, or permits required. Consult NRCS Area Office and State office staff.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions) | <p>Proper grazing management has positive impacts, maintain healthy productive pastures and water bodies and reduces spread of undesirable plants to nearby pastures.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate) | <p>Mit. practices allow for rest periods that provide sufficient time that provide sufficient for young of migratory birds to fledge from nests.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M. Preferred Alternative | Preferred alternative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Supporting reason | <p>Improves/enhances productivity and health of grazing lands; improves condition of domestic animals; meets client objectives.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td>local</td> <td>optional</td> <td>national</td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | | local | optional | national | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| local | optional | national | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>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.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Yes</th> <th style="width: 10%;">No</th> <th style="width: 80%;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | | | Yes | No | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? |
| Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. another MS TIG Trustee) 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.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | | <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | | <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (TSP If applicable) <small>John S. Dealey Jr.</small> | | Title <small>SCT</small> | | Date <small>10/10/2018</small> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (NRCS) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>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.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is lead federal agency for NRDA-funded actions planned by NRCS.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing NEPA document to which this environmental evaluation is tiered because the expected effects are within the range of those described in the applicable NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) 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

Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, December 2014

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.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:

Kevin B. Johnson

Signature

SDC

10/19/2018

Title

Date

Additional notes

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|--|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service | | NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013 | A. Client Name: [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET | | B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): Client wants to ensure sustainability of pasturelands by protecting soil health, preventing the transport of excess nutrients and animal waste, and improving the productivity of adaptable forages. | | C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc as required): [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E. Need for Action: Pastureland is overgrazed. Forage quality and quantity is inadequate for production goals of beef cattle. | | H. Alternatives <table border="1"> <tr> <td>No Action</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS</td> <td>Alternative 1</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS</td> <td>Alternative 2</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Leave site as is and with no change in management. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor.</td> <td colspan="4">Implement the following practices to improve health/productivity of pasture: 382, 390, 516, 561, 614, 533, 642, 590, 315</td> </tr> </table> | | | No Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS | Alternative 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS | Alternative 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS | Leave site as is and with no change in management. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Implement the following practices to improve health/productivity of pasture: 382, 390, 516, 561, 614, 533, 642, 590, 315 | | | |
| No Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS | Alternative 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS | Alternative 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leave site as is and with no change in management. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Implement the following practices to improve health/productivity of pasture: 382, 390, 516, 561, 614, 533, 642, 590, 315 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Resource Concerns | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance).</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F. Resource Concerns and Existing/ Benchmark Conditions (Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern) | I. Effects of Alternatives | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | No Action Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i> | | Alternative 1 Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i> | | Alternative 2 Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SOIL: EROSION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Compaction | Continuous grazing and high stocking rates will continue to result in soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Livestock trails are common throughout the pasture. Infiltration capacity is lowered and surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss and soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth, animal habitat and soil biological activity, especially on existing trails. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Implementation of conservation practices results in grazing and livestock activities being managed to meet Client's production goals and objectives. Grazing management will encourage more uniform use of paddocks, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended. Soil compaction will no longer be a problem and activities will not cause soil compaction problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters | Overgrazing will continue. Surface runoff will continue to carry animal waste and nutrients to receiving waters. Overgrazed lands will not heal naturally. Water quality will continue to deteriorate. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water quality will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Overgrazing has resulted in the reduction or loss of vegetative cover. Soil has been exposed increasing surface runoff that carries animal waste and nutrient losses from pastures to nearby surface waters and deteriorating the water quality. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 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 (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 |
| AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION | | | | | | |
| Undesirable plant productivity and health | Fields will remain overgrazed, Recovery after grazing will take at least 1 week longer than normal. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are regularly at least 10-30% below site potential. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management will reduce grazing pressure improving productivity and vigor of desirable forage species. Results in rapid plant recovery after grazing. More than 80% of the plants appear turgid and of natural green color. There are no signs of insect or disease damage. Yields are near the potential for the species. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fields overgrazed, Recovery after grazing takes at least 1 week longer than normal. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are regularly at least 10-30% below site potential. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Excessive plant pest pressure | Undesirable weedy and woody species will continue to flourish. Low plant species diversity. Quality and palatability of available forages will remain low. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management will reduce grazing pressure on desirable species. Healthier plants will out compete undesirable invading species. Quality and palatability of desirable forages will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fields overgrazed: contains < 80% desirable species. Undesirable broadleaf weeds and annual weedy grasses invading. Some woody species invading. Competition from undesired plants causes low quality and palatability of available forages | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION | | | | | | |
| Inadequate feed and forage | Feed and forage quality or quantity will continue to be inadequate for livestock nutritional needs and client's production goals due to overgrazing. Livestock performance and body condition will remain poor. Health and vigor of the herd is still reduced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management will significantly increase the quantity and quality of desirable forages. Forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements are addressed resulting in livestock nutritional needs being met and livestock performance and body condition improvement. Client's production | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Feed and forage quality or quantity is inadequate for livestock nutritional needs and client's production goals due to overgrazing. Livestock performance and body condition is poor. Health and vigor of the herd has been reduced. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | | | | | |
| Management Level | No change in management effort. | | | | | |
| Minimal effort to establish grazing management practices such as stocking rates and/or location and timing of grazing. | | | Increased management to ensure more uniform use of paddocks, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended and ensure sustainability of pasturelands. | | | |
| Profitability | Profitability will continue to decrease. | | More uniform use of paddocks, managing stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjusting the timing or season of grazing as recommended and ensuring sustainability of pasturelands will reduce feed cost, improve animal / performance / productivity, and boost farm income. | | | |
| Increasing feed cost, decreasing animal / performance / productivity, farm income limited. | | | | | | |

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 (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 Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No non-attainment areas in the state. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 0.25 miles of waters of the U.S. in the grazing area. Non-point source pollution from nutrients. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not located in CZM. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coral Reefs present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No CR present. | No Effect Exempt Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect Exempt Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No T&E species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No adverse social and economic effects to consider. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not in 100 yr. floodplain. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | Noxious/invasive species must be monitored and controlled if detected | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 35 ac. of existing migratory bird habitat; no eagles or nests observed. | No Effect Continuing same practices will result in same habitat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Mgt. practices allow for rest periods that provide sufficient time for young of migratory birds to fledge from nests and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended. 35 ac. of migratory bird habitat will be enhanced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No natural areas present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 8 ac. prime, unique or other important farmland (See soil map.) | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 0 ac. of functional riparian area. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Grazing mgt. will encourage more uniform use of pastures, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels, &/or adjust the timing/season of grazing as recommended. 2 ac. of riparian area will be enhanced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No significant aesthetic qualities identified. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| •Wetlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| •Wild and Scenic Rivers <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns | No Action | Alternative 1 | | | Alternative 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted. | | A grazing plan using C-Graze Grazing Management Application version 2.0 with Pasture condition Score assessment will be required. No easement, Permissions, or permits required. Consult NRCS Area Office and State office staff. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions) | | Proper grazing management has positive impacts, maintain healthy/productive pastures and waterbodies and reduces spread of undesirable plants to nearby pastures. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate) | | Mit. practices allow for rest periods that provide sufficient time that provide sufficient for young of migratory birds to fledge from nests. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M. Preferred Alternative | Preferred alternative <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Supporting reason | Improves/enhances productivity and health of grazing lands, improves condition of domestic animals, meets client objectives. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) | local | regional | | | national | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="5"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? </td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | | Yes | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | |
| Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P. 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. another MS TIG Trustee) 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (TSP if applicable) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John S. Dailey Jr. | | SCT | | 10/18/2018 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (NRCS) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is lead federal agency for NRDA-funded actions planned by NRCS.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing NEPA document to which this environmental evaluation is tiered because the expected effects are within the range of those described in the applicable NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) 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

Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, December 2014

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.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:

Kevin B. Johnson

Signature

SDC

10/19/2018

Title

Date

Additional notes

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

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

Client wants to ensure sustainability of pasturelands by protecting soil health, preventing the transport of excess nutrients and animal waste, and improving the productivity of adaptable forages.

A. Client Name: [REDACTED]

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):
Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED]C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc as required):
[REDACTED]

E. Need for Action:

Pastureland is overgrazed. Forage quality and quantity is inadequate for production goals of livestock beef cattle.

H. Alternatives

| No Action | ✓ If RMS | Alternative 1 | ✓ If RMS | Alternative 2 | ✓ If RMS |
|--|----------|--|----------|---------------|----------|
| Leave site as is and with no change in management. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Implement the following practices to improve health/productivity of pasture: 315 (Herbaceous Weed Control), 512 (Pasture and Hayland Planting), 590 (Nutrient Management). | | | |

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)

| 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 | ✓ If does NOT meet PC | |
| SOIL: EROSION | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | |
| SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | | |
| Compaction | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Continuous grazing and high stocking rates will continue to result in soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Livestock trails will still be common throughout the pasture. Infiltration capacity is lowered and surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss and soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth, animal habitat and soil biological activity, especially on existing trails. | Implementation of conservation practices results in grazing and livestock activities being managed to meet Client's production goals and objectives. Grazing management will encourage more uniform use of paddocks, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended. Soil compaction will no longer be a problem and activities will not cause soil compaction problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT |
| WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT |
| WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | | |
| Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Overgrazing will continue. Surface runoff will continue to carry animal waste and nutrients to receiving waters. Overgrazed lands will not heal naturally. Water quality will continue to deteriorate. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water quality will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| Overgrazing has resulted in the reduction or loss of vegetative cover. Soil has been exposed increasing surface runoff that carries animal waste and nutrient losses from pastures to nearby surface waters and deteriorating the water quality. | | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT |

| 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 (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 | |
| AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION | | | | | | |
| Under ideal plant productivity and health | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fields will remain overgrazed, Recovery after grazing will take at least 1 week longer than normal. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are regularly at least 10-30% below site potential. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management will reduce grazing pressure improving productivity and vigor of desirable forage species. Results in rapid plant recovery after grazing. More than 80% of the plants appear turgid and of natural green color. There are no signs of insect or disease damage. Yields are near the potential for the species. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Desirable plant invasions | <input type="checkbox"/> | Undesirable weedy and woody species will continue to flourish. Low plant species diversity. Quality and palatability of available forages will remain low. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management will reduce grazing pressure on desirable species. Healthier plants will out compete undesirable invading species. Quality and palatability of desirable forages will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION | | | | | | |
| Inadequate feed and forage | <input type="checkbox"/> | Feed and forage quality or quantity will continue to be inadequate for livestock nutritional needs and client's production goals due to overgrazing. Livestock performance and body condition will remain poor. Health and vigor of the herd is still reduced. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management will significantly increase the quantity and quality of desirable forages. Forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements are addressed resulting in livestock nutritional needs being met and livestock performance and body condition improvement. Client's production | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT |
| HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | | | | | |
| Management Level | No change in management effort. | | Increased management to ensure more uniform use of paddocks, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended and ensure sustainability of pasturelands. | | | |
| Minimal effort to establish grazing management practices such as stocking rates and/or location and timing of grazing. | | | | | | |
| Profitability | Profitability will continue to decrease. | | More uniform use of paddocks, managing stocking rates to appropriate levels over time, and/or adjusting the timing or season of grazing as recommended and ensuring sustainability of pasturelands will reduce feed cost, improve animal / performance / productivity, and boost farm income. | | | |
| Increasing feed cost, decreasing animal / performance / productivity, farm income limited. | | | | | | |

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 (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> <i>FS1 FS-2</i> No non-attainment areas in the state | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> N/A | No Effect N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Coastal Zone Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> Not located in CZM. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coral Reefs <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No Coral Reefs present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Cultural Resources / Historic Properties <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No CR present. | No Effect Exempt Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect Exempt Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Endangered and Threatened Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No T&E species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Justice <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No adverse social and economic effects to consider. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No EFH present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplain Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> Not in 100 yr. floodplain. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No invasive species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | Noxious/invasive species must be monitored and controlled if detected. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> 60.5 ac. of existing migratory bird habitat; no eagles or nests observed. | No Effect Continuing same practices will result in same habitat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Mgt. practices allow for rest periods that provide sufficient time for young of migratory birds to fledge from nests and/or adjust the timing or season of grazing as recommended. 60.5ac. of migratory bird habitat will be | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural Areas <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No natural areas present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> 30 ac. prime, unique or other important farmland (See soil map.) | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Riparian Area <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> N/A | No Effect N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scenic Beauty <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No significant aesthetic qualities identified. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| •Wetlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| •Wild and Scenic Rivers <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns | No Action | Alternative 1 | | | Alternative 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted. | | A grazing plan using C-Graze Grazing Management Application version 2.0 with Pasture condition Score assessment will be required. No easement, Permissions, or permits required. Consult NRCS Area Office and State office staff. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions) | | Proper grazing management has positive impacts, maintain healthy/productive pastures and waterbodies and reduces spread of undesirable plants to nearby pastures. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate) | | Mit. practices allow for rest periods that provide sufficient time that provide sufficient for young of migratory birds to fledge from nests. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M. Preferred Alternative | Preferred alternative <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Supporting reason | Improves/enhances productivity and health of grazing lands, improves condition of domestic animals, meets client objectives. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) | local | regional | | | national | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="5"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? </td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | | Yes | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | |
| Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P. 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. another MS TIG Trustee) 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (TSP if applicable) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John S. Dailey Jr. | | SCT | | 10/18/2018 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (NRCS) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is lead federal agency for NRDA-funded actions planned by NRCS.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing NEPA document to which this environmental evaluation is tiered because the expected effects are within the range of those described in the applicable NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) 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

Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Assessment, December 2014

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.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:

Kevin B. Johnson

Signature

SDC

10/19/2018

Title

Date

Additional notes

| U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service | | NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013 | A. Client Name: [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET | | B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): Client wants to ensure sustainability of pasturelands by improving pastures by protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing & better grassland management. Major objectives: reduce / eliminate need for livestock to be in streams, and improve water quality. | | C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc as required): [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E. Need for Action: Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is insufficient to maintain health or client's production goals for livestock. Improve the health of livestock, reduce waste in streams, and improve water quality. | H. Alternatives <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No Action</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> <th>Alternative 1</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> <th>Alternative 2</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor.</td> <td></td> <td>Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 614 Watering Facility; 578 Stream Crossing; 460 Land Clearing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | No Action | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 1 | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 2 | ✓ if RMS | Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 614 Watering Facility; 578 Stream Crossing; 460 Land Clearing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment | | | |
| No Action | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 1 | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 2 | ✓ if RMS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 614 Watering Facility; 578 Stream Crossing; 460 Land Clearing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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: EROSION | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | |
| Compaction | Due to continued limited/lack of watering facilities, livestock will still travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails & concentrated heavy use areas around water sources. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Implementation of conservation practices results in grazing and livestock activities being dispersed. Grazing management combined with adequate water sources will encourage more uniform use of paddocks. Soil compaction will no longer be a problem and future activities will not cause soil compaction problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Limited/lack of watering facilities forces livestock to travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails & concentrated heavy use areas around water sources. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | |
| Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters | Livestock concentration will continue. Surface runoff will continue to carry animal waste and nutrients to receiving waters. Lands will not heal naturally. Water quality will continue to deteriorate. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate watering facilities encourage livestock to disperse. Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water quality will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of watering facilities causes livestock to concentrate in the same areas, resulting in the reduction or loss of vegetative cover. Soil has been exposed increasing surface runoff that carries animal waste and nutrient losses from pastures to nearby surface waters, deteriorating water quality. | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |

| 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 (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 |
| AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION | | | | | | |
| Undesirable plant productivity and health | Fields will remain overgrazed. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality will continue to not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields will regularly be at least 10-30% below site potential. PCS will remain < 30 and PCS plant vigor factor remain < 4. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure improving productivity and vigor of desirable forage species. Yields are near the potential for the species. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Limited/lack of watering facilities caused uneven grazing distribution resulting in overgrazing of certain areas. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are at least 10-30% below site potential. PCS < 30 & PCS plant vigor factor < 4. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| Excessive plant pest pressure | Undesirable weedy and woody species will continue to flourish. Low plant species diversity. Quality and palatability of available forages will remain low. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure on desirable species. Healthier plants will out compete undesirable invading species. Quality and palatability of desirable forages will improve. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fields with uneven grazing distribution contain < 60% desirable species. Undesirable broadleaf weeds & annual weedy grasses invading. Some woody species invading. Competition from undesired plants causes low quality & palatability of available forages. PCS < 30. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE | | | | | | |
| Habitat degradation | Existing water facilities such as troughs and tanks will continue to lack wildlife escape structures & pose a danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retrofit watering facilities with wildlife escape structures & ensure new watering facilities are fitted with escape structures to decrease danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Existing water facilities such as troughs and tanks are lacking wildlife escape structures & pose a danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION | | | | | | |
| Inadequate livestock water | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water will remain insufficient to maintain livestock health & client's production goals. Livestock will continue to be forced to travel between feeding areas & watering sites. Long distance to water causes livestock to travel as a group. Spend more time congregating around water. Less time to feed & drink. Result: poor performance & body condition. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is sufficient to maintain livestock health and client's production goals. Closer water sources will encourage livestock to visit water in smaller numbers; spend less time socializing; return to grazing sooner. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is insufficient to maintain livestock health & client's production goals. Livestock forced to travel between feeding areas & watering sites. Long distance to water causes livestock to travel as a group. Spend more time congregating around water. Less time to feed & drink. Result: poor performance & body condition. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | | | | | |
| Management Level | No change in management effort. | | | | | |
| Minimal effort to establish water sources needed for grazing management such as location and quantity & quality of livestock drinking water. | | | Increased management to establish livestock water sources. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | | | |
| Profitability | Profitability will continue to decrease. | | Increased costs due to construction of watering facilities and heavy use areas. Participation in USDA programs will reduce actual cost burden. Livestock performance and body condition will improve and boost farm income. | | | |
| Decreasing livestock performance / productivity, farm income limited. | | | | | | |

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 (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 Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No non-attainment areas in the state. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 3 miles of waters of the U.S. in the grazing area. Non-point source pollution from nutrients. | May Effect Surface runoff and livestock loafing in streams will continue to carry animal waste, nutrients and soil to nearby surface waters continuing to deteriorate water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Implementation of fencing, ponds and/or troughs restrict the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients into streams and improve water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not located in CZM. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coral Reefs present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No CR present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect Review Required: 378 Pond; 516 Pipeline; and 561 Heavy Use Area Protection: see MS-CR-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No T&E species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No adverse social and economic effects to consider. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not in 100 yr. floodplain. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | No Effect | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No natural areas present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 0 ac. of functional riparian area. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Grazing mgt. will encourage more uniform use of pastures, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels, &/or adjust the timing/season of grazing as recommended. 4 ac. of riparian area will be enhanced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No significant aesthetic qualities identified. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| •Wetlands Guide Sheet | Fact Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
| •Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet | Fact Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
| K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns | No Action | Alternative 1 | | Alternative 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M. Preferred Alternative | Preferred alternative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| | Supporting reason | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="4"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? </td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | Yes | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | |
| Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P. 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. another MS TIG Trustee) 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (TSP if applicable) | | Title | Date | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Darlene</i> | | <i>SC</i> | <i>2/5/19</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (NRCS) | | Title | Date | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is lead federal agency for NRDA-funded actions planned by NRCS.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing NEPA document to which this environmental evaluation is tiered because the expected effects are within the range of those described in the applicable NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) 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

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.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature



Title



Date

Additional notes

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service | | NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013 | A. Client Name: [REDACTED] | | |
| ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET | | | | | |
| D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): Client wants to ensure sustainability of pasturelands by improving pastures by cover through proper distribution of grazing & better grassland management. reduce / eliminate need for livestock to be in streams, and improve water quality. | | B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED] | | | |
| C. Identification # protecting vegetative Major objectives: [REDACTED] | | | | | |
| E. Need for Action: Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is insufficient to maintain health or client's production goals for livestock. Improve the health of livestock, reduce waste in streams, and improve water quality. | | H. Alternatives | | | |
| | | No Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS <input type="checkbox"/> | Alternative 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Alternative 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if RMS <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 578 Stream Crossing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment; Riparian Herbaceous Cover 390; Livestock Pipeline 516; Heavy Use Area 561; Water Facility 614 | | |
| 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) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC | Amount, Status, Description (Document both short and long term impacts) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC | |
| | | | | | |
| SOIL: EROSION | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | |
| Compaction | Due to continued limited/lack of watering facilities, livestock will still travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails / concentrated heavy use areas. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Implementation of conservation practices results in grazing and livestock activities being dispersed. Grazing management combined with adequate water sources will encourage more uniform use of paddocks. Soil compaction will no longer be a problem and future activities will not cause soil compaction problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC |
| Limited/lack of watering facilities forces livestock to travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails & concentrated heavy use areas around water sources. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | |
| Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters | Livestock concentration will continue. Surface runoff will continue to carry animal waste and nutrients to receiving waters. Lands will not heal naturally. Water quality will continue to deteriorate. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate watering facilities encourage livestock to disperse. Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water quality will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Lack of watering facilities causes livestock to concentrate in the same areas, resulting in the reduction or loss of vegetative cover. Soil has been exposed increasing surface runoff that carries animal waste and nutrient losses from pastures to nearby surface waters, deteriorating water quality. | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| 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 (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 | |
| AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION | | | | | | |
| Undesirable plant species invading and outcompeting desirable species. Limited/lack of watering facilities caused uneven grazing distribution resulting in overgrazing of certain areas. Plant productivity, vigor &/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are at least 10-30% below site potential. PCS < 30 & PCS plant vigor factor < 4. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fields will remain overgrazed. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality will continue to not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields will regularly be at least 10-30% below site potential . PCS will remain < 30 and PCS plant vigor factor remain < 4. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure improving productivity and vigor of desirable forage species. Yields are near the potential for the species. Pasture Condition Score > 30 . | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| Undesirable plant species invading | <input type="checkbox"/> | Undesirable weedy and woody species will continue to flourish. Low plant species diversity. Quality and palatability of available forages will remain low. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure on desirable species. Healthier plants will out compete undesirable invading species. Quality and palatability of desirable forages will improve. Pasture Condition Score > 30 . | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE | | | | | | |
| Habitat degradation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Existing water facilities such as troughs and tanks will continue to lack wildlife escape structures & pose a danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Retrofit watering facilities with wildlife escape structures & ensure new watering facilities are fitted with escape structures to decrease danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION | | | | | | |
| Inadequate livestock water | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water will remain insufficient to maintain livestock health & client's production goals. Livestock forced to travel between feeding areas & watering sites. Long distance to water causes livestock to travel as a group. Spend more time congregating around water. Less time to feed & drink. Result: poor performance & body condition. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is sufficient to maintain livestock health and client's production goals. Closer water sources will encourage livestock to visit water in smaller numbers; spend less time socializing; return to grazing sooner. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT meet PC |
| ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | | | | | |
| Management Level | No change in management effort. | | Increased management to establish livestock water sources. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | | | |
| Minimal effort to establish water sources needed for grazing management such as location and quantity & quality of livestock drinking water | | | | | | |
| Profitability | Profitability will continue to decrease. | | Increased costs due to construction of watering facilities and heavy use areas. Participation in USDA programs will reduce actual cost burden. Livestock performance and body condition will improve and boost | | | |
| Decreasing livestock performance / productivity, farm income limited. | | | | | | |

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 (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> <i>FS1 FS-2</i> No non-attainment areas in the state. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> 1 miles of waters of the U.S. in the grazing area. Non-point source pollution from nutrients. | May Effect Surface runoff and livestock loafing in streams will continue to carry animal waste, nutrients and soil to nearby surface waters continuing to deteriorate water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Implementation of fencing, ponds and/or troughs restrict the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients into streams and improve water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Coastal Zone Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> Not located in CZM. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coral Reefs <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No Coral Reefs present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Cultural Resources / Historic Properties <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No CR present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect Review Required: 378 Pond; 516 Pipeline; and 561 Heavy Use Area Protection: see MS-CR-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Endangered and Threatened Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No T&E species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Justice <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No adverse social and economic effects to consider. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No EFH present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplain Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> Not in 100 yr. floodplain. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No invasive species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| •Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> | No Effect | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural Areas <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No natural areas present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Riparian Area <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> 0 ac. of functional riparian area. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Grazing mgt. will encourage more uniform use of pastures, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels, &/or adjust the timing/season of grazing as recommended. 2 ac. of riparian area will be enhanced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scenic Beauty <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i> No significant aesthetic qualities identified. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| •Wetlands Guide Sheet | Fact Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
| •Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet | Fact Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
| K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns | No Action | Alternative 1 | | Alternative 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M. Preferred Alternative | Preferred alternative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| | Supporting reason | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="4"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? </td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | Yes | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | |
| Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P. 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. another MS TIG Trustee) 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | <input type="text"/> | | <input type="text"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (TSP if applicable) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | SC | | 2/5/19 | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (NRCS) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is lead federal agency for NRDA-funded actions planned by NRCS.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing NEPA document to which this environmental evaluation is tiered because the expected effects are within the range of those described in the applicable NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) 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

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.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature



Title



Date

Additional notes

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

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

Client wants to ensure sustainability of pasturelands by improving pastures by protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing & better grassland management. Major objectives: reduce / eliminate need for livestock to be in streams, and improve water quality.

A. Client Name: [REDACTED]

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable):

Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED]

E. Need for Action:

Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is insufficient to maintain health or client's production goals for livestock. Improve the health of livestock, reduce waste in streams, and improve water quality.

H. Alternatives

| No Action | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 1 | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 2 | ✓ if RMS |
|---|----------|---|----------|---------------|----------|
| Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 614 Watering Facility; 578 Stream Crossing; 460 Land Clearing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment | | | |

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 | ✓ if does NOT meet PC | Amount, Status, Description | ✓ if does NOT meet PC | Amount, Status, Description | ✓ if does NOT meet PC |
| SOIL: EROSION | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | |
| Compaction | Due to continued limited/lack of watering facilities, livestock will still travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails & concentrated heavy use areas around water sources. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Implementation of conservation practices results in grazing and livestock activities being dispersed. Grazing management combined with adequate water sources will encourage more uniform use of paddocks. Soil compaction will no longer be a problem and future activities will not cause soil compaction problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Limited/lack of watering facilities forces livestock to travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails & concentrated heavy use areas around water sources. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | |
| Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters | Livestock concentration will continue. Surface runoff will continue to carry animal waste and nutrients to receiving waters. Lands will not heal naturally. Water quality will continue to deteriorate. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate watering facilities encourage livestock to disperse. Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water quality will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of watering facilities causes livestock to concentrate in the same areas, resulting in the reduction or loss of vegetative cover. Soil has been exposed increasing surface runoff that carries animal waste and nutrient losses from pastures to nearby surface waters, deteriorating water quality. | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |

| 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 (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 |
| AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION | | | | | | |
| Undesirable plant productivity and health | Fields will remain overgrazed. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality will continue to not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields will regularly be at least 10-30% below site potential. PCS will remain < 30 and PCS plant vigor factor remain < 4. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure improving productivity and vigor of desirable forage species. Yields are near the potential for the species. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Limited/lack of watering facilities caused uneven grazing distribution resulting in overgrazing of certain areas. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are at least 10-30% below site potential. PCS < 30 & PCS plant vigor factor < 4. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| Excessive plant pest pressure | | | | | | |
| Fields with uneven grazing distribution contain < 60% desirable species. Undesirable broadleaf weeds & annual weedy grasses invading. Some woody species invading. Competition from undesired plants causes low quality & palatability of available forages. PCS < 30. | Undesirable weedy and woody species will continue to flourish. Low plant species diversity. Quality and palatability of available forages will remain low. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure on desirable species. Healthier plants will out compete undesirable invading species. Quality and palatability of desirable forages will improve. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE | | | | | | |
| Habitat degradation | Existing water facilities such as troughs and tanks will continue to lack wildlife escape structures & pose a danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retrofit watering facilities with wildlife escape structures & ensure new watering facilities are fitted with escape structures to decrease danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Existing water facilities such as troughs and tanks are lacking wildlife escape structures & pose a danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | | NOT meet PC | | | | NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION | | | | | | |
| Inadequate livestock water | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water will remain insufficient to maintain livestock health & client's production goals. Livestock forced to travel between feeding areas & watering sites. Long distance to water causes livestock to travel as a group. Spend more time congregating around water. Less time to feed & drink. Result: poor performance & body condition. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is sufficient to maintain livestock health and client's production goals. Closer water sources will encourage livestock to visit water in smaller numbers; spend less time socializing; return to grazing sooner. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | <input type="checkbox"/> | NOT meet PC | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quantity, quality &/or distribution of drinking water is insufficient to maintain livestock health & client's production goals. Livestock forced to travel between feeding areas & watering sites. Long distance to water causes livestock to travel as a group. Spend more time congregating around water. Less time to feed & drink. Result: poor performance & body condition. | | NOT meet PC | | | | NOT meet PC |
| ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | | | | | |
| Management Level | No change in management effort. | | Increased management to establish livestock water sources. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | | | |
| Minimal effort to establish water sources needed for grazing management such as location and quantity & quality of livestock drinking water. | | | | | | |
| Profitability | Profitability will continue to decrease. | | Increased costs due to construction of watering facilities and heavy use areas. Participation in USDA programs will reduce actual cost burden. Livestock performance and body condition will improve and boost farm income. | | | |
| Decreasing livestock performance / productivity, farm income limited. | | | | | | |

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 (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 Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No non-attainment areas in the state. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 3 miles of waters of the U.S. in the grazing area. Non-point source pollution from nutrients. | May Effect Surface runoff and livestock loafing in streams will continue to carry animal waste, nutrients and soil to nearby surface waters continuing to deteriorate water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Implementation of fencing, ponds and/or troughs restrict the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients into streams and improve water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not located in CZM. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coral Reefs present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No CR present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect Review Required: 378 Pond; 516 Pipeline; and 561 Heavy Use Area Protection: see MS-CR-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No T&E species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No adverse social and economic effects to consider. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not in 100 yr. floodplain. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | No Effect | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No natural areas present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 0 ac. of functional riparian area. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Grazing mgt. will encourage more uniform use of pastures, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels, &/or adjust the timing/season of grazing as recommended. 4 ac. of riparian area will be enhanced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No significant aesthetic qualities identified. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Wetlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| • Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns | No Action | Alternative 1 | | Alternative 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M. Preferred Alternative | Preferred alternative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Supporting reason | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. 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| Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| P. 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. another MS TIG Trustee) 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (TSP if applicable) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | SC | | 2/5/19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (NRCS) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is lead federal agency for NRDA-funded actions planned by NRCS.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing NEPA document to which this environmental evaluation is tiered because the expected effects are within the range of those described in the applicable NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) 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

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.

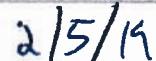
S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature



Title



Date

Additional notes

| U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service | | NRCS-CPA-52 4/2013 | A. Client Name: [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|--|----------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET | | B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Program Authority (optional): [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose): Client wants to ensure sustainability of pasturelands by improving pastures by protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing & better grassland management. Major objectives: reduce / eliminate need for livestock to be in streams, and improve water quality. | | C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc as required): [REDACTED] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E. Need for Action: Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is insufficient to maintain health or client's production goals for livestock. Improve the health of livestock, reduce waste in streams, and improve water quality. | | H. Alternatives <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No Action</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> <th>Alternative 1</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> <th>Alternative 2</th> <th>✓ if RMS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor.</td> <td></td> <td>Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 614 Watering Facility; 578 Stream Crossing; 460 Land Clearing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | No Action | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 1 | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 2 | ✓ if RMS | Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 614 Watering Facility; 578 Stream Crossing; 460 Land Clearing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment | | | |
| No Action | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 1 | ✓ if RMS | Alternative 2 | ✓ if RMS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leave site as is and with no change in management. Watering places will continue to be lacking. Forage quality and quantity will continue to decline. Animal condition / productivity will remain poor. | | Improve health/productivity of pasture by providing fencing to keep livestock out of streams in a planned grazing system: 382 Fence; 614 Watering Facility; 578 Stream Crossing; 460 Land Clearing; Nutrient management; 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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: EROSION | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | |
| Compaction | Due to continued limited/lack of watering facilities, livestock will still travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails & concentrated heavy use areas around water sources. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Implementation of conservation practices results in grazing and livestock activities being dispersed. Grazing management combined with adequate water sources will encourage more uniform use of paddocks. Soil compaction will no longer be a problem and future activities will not cause soil compaction problems. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Limited/lack of watering facilities forces livestock to travel between feeding areas & watering sites resulting in overused livestock trails & concentrated heavy use areas around water sources. These areas are characterized by soil compaction that makes it hard to push soil probe past compacted layers. Infiltration capacity is lowered & surface runoff increased due to plant cover loss & soil compaction by livestock hooves. This results in decreased rooting depth that reduces plant growth & soil biological activity. | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |
| WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION | | | | | | |
| Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters | Livestock concentration will continue. Surface runoff will continue to carry animal waste and nutrients to receiving waters. Lands will not heal naturally. Water quality will continue to deteriorate. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adequate watering facilities encourage livestock to disperse. Proper grazing management restricts the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients in surface runoff by maintaining good vegetative soil coverage. Water quality will improve. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of watering facilities causes livestock to concentrate in the same areas, resulting in the reduction or loss of vegetative cover. Soil has been exposed increasing surface runoff that carries animal waste and nutrient losses from pastures to nearby surface waters, deteriorating water quality. | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | | NOT meet PC | |
| No resource concern identified | | | | | | |

| 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 (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 |
| AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION | | | | | | |
| Undesirable plant productivity and health | Fields will remain overgrazed. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality will continue to not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields will regularly be at least 10-30% below site potential. PCS will remain < 30 and PCS plant vigor factor remain < 4. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure improving productivity and vigor of desirable forage species. Yields are near the potential for the species. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Limited/lack of watering facilities caused uneven grazing distribution resulting in overgrazing of certain areas. Plant productivity, vigor and/or quality does not meet yield potential due to improper fertility, management: Yields are at least 10-30% below site potential. PCS < 30 & PCS plant vigor factor < 4. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| Excessive plant pest pressure | Undesirable weedy and woody species will continue to flourish. Low plant species diversity. Quality and palatability of available forages will remain low. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Proper grazing management and adequate watering facilities will improve livestock distribution and reduce grazing pressure on desirable species. Healthier plants will out compete undesirable invading species. Quality and palatability of desirable forages will improve. Pasture Condition Score > 30. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fields with uneven grazing distribution contain < 60% desirable species. Undesirable broadleaf weeds & annual weedy grasses invading. Some woody species invading. Competition from undesired plants causes low quality & palatability of available forages. PCS < 30. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE | | | | | | |
| Habitat degradation | Existing water facilities such as troughs and tanks will continue to lack wildlife escape structures & pose a danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retrofit watering facilities with wildlife escape structures & ensure new watering facilities are fitted with escape structures to decrease danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Existing water facilities such as troughs and tanks are lacking wildlife escape structures & pose a danger to wildlife that attempt to share livestock watering facilities. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION | | | | | | |
| Inadequate livestock water | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water will remain insufficient to maintain livestock health & client's production goals. Livestock will continue to be forced to travel between feeding areas & watering sites. Long distance to water causes livestock to travel as a group. Spend more time congregating around water. Less time to feed & drink. Result: poor performance & body condition. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is sufficient to maintain livestock health and client's production goals. Closer water sources will encourage livestock to visit water in smaller numbers; spend less time socializing; return to grazing sooner. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quantity, quality and/or distribution of drinking water is insufficient to maintain livestock health & client's production goals. Livestock forced to travel between feeding areas & watering sites. Long distance to water causes livestock to travel as a group. Spend more time congregating around water. Less time to feed & drink. Result: poor performance & body condition. | | NOT meet PC | NOT meet PC | | | NOT meet PC |
| ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE | | | | | | |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No resource concern identified | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HUMAN: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS | | | | | | |
| Management Level | No change in management effort. | | | | | |
| Minimal effort to establish water sources needed for grazing management such as location and quantity & quality of livestock drinking water. | | | Increased management to establish livestock water sources. Result: increasing productivity; livestock performance and body condition will improve; and health and vigor of the herd will increase. | | | |
| Profitability | Profitability will continue to decrease. | | Increased costs due to construction of watering facilities and heavy use areas. Participation in USDA programs will reduce actual cost burden. Livestock performance and body condition will improve and boost farm income. | | | |
| Decreasing livestock performance / productivity, farm income limited. | | | | | | |

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 (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 Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2 No non-attainment areas in the state. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Clean Water Act / Waters of the U.S. Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 3 miles of waters of the U.S. in the grazing area. Non-point source pollution from nutrients. | May Effect Surface runoff and livestock loafing in streams will continue to carry animal waste, nutrients and soil to nearby surface waters continuing to deteriorate water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Implementation of fencing, ponds and/or troughs restrict the transport of soil, animal wastes, and nutrients into streams and improve water quality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Coastal Zone Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not located in CZM. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Coral Reefs Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No Coral Reefs present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Cultural Resources / Historic Properties Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No CR present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect Review Required: 378 Pond; 516 Pipeline; and 561 Heavy Use Area Protection: see MS-CR-1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Endangered and Threatened Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No T&E species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental Justice Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No adverse social and economic effects to consider. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Essential Fish Habitat Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No EFH present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet Not in 100 yr. floodplain. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No invasive species present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | No Effect | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No natural areas present. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | No Effect No changes in land use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet 0 ac. of functional riparian area. | No Effect No changes in management practices. | <input type="checkbox"/> | May Effect - Beneficial Grazing mgt. will encourage more uniform use of pastures, manage stocking rates to appropriate levels, &/or adjust the timing/season of grazing as recommended. 4 ac. of riparian area will be enhanced. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet No significant aesthetic qualities identified. | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| •Wetlands Guide Sheet | Fact Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
| •Wild and Scenic Rivers Guide Sheet | Fact Sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | |
| K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns | No Action | Alternative 1 | | Alternative 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M. Preferred Alternative | Preferred alternative | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| | Supporting reason | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.</p> <p>If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td colspan="4"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? </td> </tr> </table> | | | | | | Yes | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | |
| Yes | No | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety? Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas? Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial? Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment? Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration? Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time? Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species. Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment? | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P. 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. another MS TIG Trustee) 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <input type="text"/> | | <input type="text"/> | | <input type="text"/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (TSP if applicable) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | |
|  | | SC | | 2/5/19 | | | | | | | | | |
| Signature (NRCS) | | Title | | Date | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is lead federal agency for NRDA-funded actions planned by NRCS.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one)

The preferred alternative:

Action required

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing NEPA document to which this environmental evaluation is tiered because the expected effects are within the range of those described in the applicable NEPA document and there are no predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances. | Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) 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

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.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:



Signature



Title



Date

Additional notes

Pages from MSTIG RP EA 2016-2017 FINAL - NEPA Analytical Approach for NR Restoration Type

Project Alternatives A and B would meet the evaluation criteria established by OPA because:

- Cost estimates are based on comparable projects previously implemented and those costs were considered reasonable;
- The project alternatives have a clear nexus to the NR injuries described in the PDARP/PEIS, and the MS TIG's restoration goals and objectives that would be met include opportunities for leveraged funding, Trustee expertise from state and federal programs and partnering agency resource management expertise, and consistency with existing management plans and initiatives;
- There is a high likelihood of success because these alternatives propose implementing proven conservation practices and tested restoration techniques used by the MS TIG Trustees and project partners on similar types of projects in the region;
- These watershed-scale proposed alternatives improve the quality of coastal waters impacted by the *DWH* Oil Spill by reducing the runoff of nutrients, and sediment into coastal waters;
- Future and collateral injury would be avoided by employing best practices during project implementation;
- Both alternatives are likely to benefit more than one resource; and
- There would be a long-term benefit to public safety from improved water quality.

Proposed Alternatives A and B are also consistent with the MGCRP and other regional planning initiatives. The nexus between these alternatives and the injury and the programmatic restoration goal is clear because implementation of conservation practices on privately owned lands would reduce nutrient enrichment and sedimentation and restore water quality in Gulf of Mexico coastal watersheds. Future conservation planning and implementation of USDA-NRCS conservation practices would not require additional OPA evaluation.

3.7.2 NEPA Analytical Approach for NR (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type

This section provides the NEPA analytical approach for the NR (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type in the following order:

1. USDA NEPA Analyses for conservation practices incorporated by reference;
2. A description of the general NEPA analytical approach for the NR (Nonpoint Source) project alternatives;
3. The MS TIG plan for site-specific NEPA review for the selected alternative; and
4. The organization of the affected environment and environmental consequences for the proposed alternatives under the NR (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type.

1) USDA NEPA Analyses for Conservation Practices Incorporated by Reference: The USDA-NRCS has a long-standing structured, interdisciplinary, science-based, and public process for

developing conservation practice standards and analyzing the effects of those practices.⁵⁷ Implementing these conservation practices has been proven to successfully address natural resource concerns related to agricultural and forested lands, and many of these practices can be used to achieve a number of the Restoration Types identified in the *DWH PDARP/PEIS*. Because of this, both of the proposed action alternatives contemplate using USDA-NRCS conservation practices to achieve certain PDARP/PEIS restoration goals in Mississippi. This analysis hereby incorporates by reference the standards and specifications for the conservation practices in Appendix B found in the USDA-NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices and the analysis of the effects of those practices contained in the USDA-NRCS Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) matrices, the Network Effects Diagrams,⁵⁸ and in the USDA-NRCS Conservation Effects Assessment Project reports.⁵⁹ Each of those assessments is based on a review of the best available scientific studies and methodological approaches, as well as professional judgment.⁶⁰ In addition, this document incorporates by reference the analyses from the USDA-NRCS EQIP Programmatic EA, March 2016, and in particular its discussions of the water quality impacts of NRCS conservation practices.

2) The NEPA Analytical Approach for the Development of NR (Nonpoint Source) Project

Alternatives: This RP/EA analyzes potential environmental impacts at a broad program scale, identifying the qualitative effects that are a reasonably foreseeable result of each alternative. Under both action alternatives there would be a landowner outreach and a conservation planning phase in which USDA-NRCS would work with private landowners to develop site-specific conservation plans outlining a combination of conservation practices.⁶¹ Conservation planning for proposed Alternative A (Preferred) would be conducted for the purpose of achieving nutrient and sediment reduction from agricultural and forested land, including riparian areas, whereas conservation planning for Alternative B would focus on establishing and maintaining riparian buffers that effectively filter nutrients and sediment from upland runoff, and would not address nutrient and sediment runoff at the source. Conservation practices would be planned and implemented on a site-specific basis, and would vary depending on the physical conditions, characteristics, and environmental constraints (e.g. endangered

⁵⁷ See, for example, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Programmatic EA, March 2016 at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/ecosciences/ec/?cid=nrcseprd387616> and research associated with the NRCS Conservation Effects Assessment Project at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/ceap/>. See also the national NRCS conservation practice standards and associated CPPE and Network Effects Diagrams at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849.

⁵⁸ Both the CPPE matrices and network effects diagrams are available from the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices web site at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/>

⁵⁹ <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/nra/ceap/>.

⁶⁰ The majority of conservation practices likely to be implemented under the proposed action have been determined to fall within established NRCS categorical exclusions and therefore would not normally require preparation of an EA or EIS if implemented under NRCS program authorities. However, because this action is proposed for funding under the *DWH* NRDA Consent Decree and not all *DWH* NRDA Trustees have such categorical exclusions, the MS TIG decided to prepare this EA to aid their planning, decision-making and compliance with NEPA.

⁶¹ The landowner outreach program, conservation planning activities and creation of conservation plans would not require project-specific environmental compliance measures described in this section.

species, cultural resources, etc.) associated with each site. Because the specific sites are not yet known, this analysis identifies the environmental impacts that normally occur from implementing USDA-NRCS conservation practices to achieve nutrient and sediment reductions. In addition to incorporating by reference the analysis USDA-NRCS has conducted on the effects of its conservation practices, the discussion in this RP/EA includes examples of the conservation practices the MS TIG expects would be implemented in the project area for the proposed alternatives and how those practices are expected to impact the environment.

3) The MS TIG Approach to Site-Specific Environmental Review for the Selected Alternative:

Subsequent environmental review would occur in addition to this NEPA analytical approach to determine whether a planned site-specific action is below the maximum adverse impacts described in this RP/EA. An example of the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet used to document this review is attached as Appendix A. If the site-specific action is below the maximum adverse impacts described in this RP/EA, the analysis of the effects would be documented on the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet and the action would proceed. The Environmental Evaluation Worksheet would be routed through the MS TIG to the administrative record, where it would be publicly available.⁶² If the evaluation of the planned site-specific action indicates effects are likely to exceed the maximum adverse impacts described in this EA, the MS TIG would undertake additional site-specific environmental review consistent with NEPA requirements and other requirements for protection of the environment. The MS TIG does not propose to take actions that would result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment.

4) Organization of the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences for NR

(Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type: Guidelines for NEPA impact determinations for the PDARP/PEIS are described in Section 6.3.2 of the PDARP/PEIS and are hereby incorporated by reference. NR Alternatives A and B include development and implementation of conservation plans to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, which would improve water quality in downstream coastal waters. Alternative A (Preferred) would include conservation practices on agricultural and forested land including riparian areas; Alternative B would include practices such as conservation buffers only in riparian areas associated with agricultural and forested land. Section 3.8 below addresses the environmental consequences of the No Action Alternative, which would allow natural recovery to proceed, followed by an overview of the proposed NR (Nonpoint Source) alternatives in Section 3.9. The NEPA affected environment and environmental consequences for the NR (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type alternatives are structured as follows:

- Section 3.9 NR (Nonpoint Source) Alternatives - Description of Common Features and Analytical Approach
- Section 3.9.1 NR (Nonpoint Source) Alternatives A and B - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences
- Section 3.9.1.1 Overview of Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

⁶² Information that cannot be released will be redacted in accordance with Privacy Act, Freedom of Information Act, and other applicable requirements.

- Section 3.9.1.2 Physical Environment
- Section 3.9.1.3 Biological Environment
- Section 3.9.1.4 Socioeconomic Environment
- Section 3.10 Cumulative Impacts for NR (Nonpoint Source)
- Section 3.11 Comparison of the Alternatives-NR (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type

3.8 No Action Alternative

In addition to the proposed alternatives listed above for the NR (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type, the MS TIG evaluated the No Action Alternative (No Action). CEQ Regulations Implementing NEPA (§1502.14(d)) requires consideration of a No Action Alternative as a basis for comparison with potential environmental consequences of the action alternatives.

Under the No Action Alternative, the MS TIG would not implement any projects for the NR (Nonpoint Source) Restoration Type at this time, and would instead allow natural recovery processes to occur, which could result in one of four outcomes for injured resources: 1) gradual recovery; 2) partial recovery; 3) no recovery; or 4) further deterioration. Although injured resources could presumably recover to or near baseline conditions under this scenario, recovery would take much longer compared to a scenario in which restoration actions were undertaken.

The No Action Alternative would have no beneficial impacts to water quality through nutrient reduction because this alternative would largely result in a continuation of the conditions described in the PDARP/PEIS Chapters 3, Ecosystem Setting and Chapter 4, Injury to Natural Resources, and there would be no associated benefits to water quality by the reduction of sediments and nutrient loading. Under the No Action Alternative, some NR (Nonpoint Source) benefits could result from USDA-NRCS programs in the proposed project area, but not from the federal action being evaluated in this RP/EA. The full suite of restoration benefits would not be realized solely with natural processes and without the benefit of leveraged funding opportunities and opportunity for robust monitoring and adaptive management. The No Action Alternative does not meet the MS TIG's goals and objectives and clearly does not provide the significant restoration benefit to water quality through nutrient reduction that would occur through the action alternatives.

When analyzed in combination with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, the No Action Alternative would provide no beneficial impacts, because existing conditions would not change in a predictable way. This alternative is not expected to contribute to short-term or long term, cumulative adverse impacts to physical resources, biological resources, or socioeconomics.

3.9 NR (Nonpoint Source) Alternatives -Description of Common Features and Analytical Approach

Both proposed NR (Nonpoint Source) alternatives would be implemented by USDA-NRCS in the Chunky-Okatibbee watershed in Mississippi for the purpose of improving water quality by implementing conservation practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff. USDA-NRCS and its conservation partners would help voluntarily participating landowners by developing conservation plans that identify natural resource concerns and conservation practices the landowner can implement to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff. The MS TIG proposes providing \$4.0 M for either of these