

Part 501 – Development of Watershed Project Plans

Subpart D – Watershed Project Plan Content and Format

Table 501.1 Format for Watershed Project Plan-EA / Plan-EIS

Cover [Content Requirements Defined at 40 CFR Part 1502.11]

Abstract (Fly Sheet)

Watershed Agreement [excluded from draft for external distribution]. See Title 390, NWPM, Part 506, Subpart C, Sections 506.30 and 506.31.

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Summary (OMB Fact Sheet)

Purpose and Need for Action

Scope of the EA/EIS [for projects covered by categorical exclusions (CEs) entitle section “Scope of the Plan”]

Affected Environment

Alternatives

Formulation process, including section addressing alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study

Description of all reasonable alternatives including all of the following (and a discussion of mitigation measures as appropriate):

- (1) No-action alternative
- (2) Agency preferred alternative
- (3) Other reasonable alternatives, including those not within NRCS authority
- (4) NED alternative or most cost-effective alternative

Summary and Comparison of Alternative Plans Table

- (5) NED account
- (6) Relevant issues and concerns identified through scoping, including direct, indirect, and cumulative actions and impacts

Environmental Consequences [for projects covered by categorical exclusions (CEs) replace section with EE/CPA-52]

Effects of each alternative (include context and intensity) on the relevant issues and concerns identified through scoping:

- (1) Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and an assessment of the significance of the impacts (beneficial and adverse)
- (2) Compliance with Federal, State, and local laws (including any permit requirements)
- (3) Possible conflicts with land use plans, regional water resource management plans, policies, and controls for the area
- (4) Risk and uncertainty
- (5) The relationship between short-term use and long-term productivity
- (6) Adverse effects that cannot be avoided
- (7) Precedent for future actions with significant impacts
- (8) Controversy
- (9) Irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources
- (10) Energy and natural or depletable resource requirements (conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures)
- (11) Urban quality, the design of the built environment

Consultation, Coordination, and Public Participation

The Preferred Alternative

- (1) Rationale for alternative preference
- (2) Measures to be installed
- (3) Mitigation
- (4) Permits and compliance
- (5) Costs and cost sharing
- (6) Installation and financing
- (7) Operation, maintenance, and replacement
- (8) Economic Tables
- (9) Structural Tables

References

List of Preparers

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Appendices

- (1) Appendix A — Comments and Responses
- (2) Appendix B — Project Map
- (3) Appendix C — Support Maps (as applicable)
- (4) Appendix D — Investigation and Analysis Report
- (5) Appendix E — Other Supporting Information