

## **Part 601 – Development of Watershed Project Plans**

### **Subpart D – Watershed Project Plan Content and Format**

#### **601.30 Project Plan Content**

- A. The documents should be brief, concise, and written in nontechnical language. Unusual terms should be defined or explained as needed to give the reader a clear understanding of their meaning.
- B. Numbers of various units (acres, dollars, farms) in a plan should be rounded to the nearest 10, 100, or 1,000 depending on the amount of precision used in developing the data. Certain figures in “Structural Table 3 - Dams With Planned Storage Capacity” (Title 390, National Watershed Program Manual (NWPM), Part 506, Subpart B, Section 506.15), however, may be an exception.
- C. Appropriate drawings, tables, and maps should be included to provide a clear understanding of the measures and how they will function. Information in tables, maps, and other graphics should be referenced and not repeated in the narrative. However, the highlights of a table should be in the narrative.
- D. Maps should be included as appropriate. Some examples are a floodplain strip map, general soils map, general geologic map, general land use map, gross erosion map, sediment yield map (for specific locations), water supply distribution map, condensed profiles, wetlands map, and wildlife mitigation map. Do not include maps that show the location of archaeological or historic properties.
- E. Graphics could include drawings for a typical reservoir showing plan view, area-capacity-discharge curves, typical zoned fill section, section through outlet works, centerline profile of dam, and emergency spillway profile; typical channel cross sections showing spoil disposal, special environmental considerations, and other features; and perspective drawings illustrating the appearance of project measures from one or more significant views. Visual simulations of project alternatives and measures are encouraged. From simple two-dimensional simulations depicting existing and proposed views to computer-generated three-dimensional images of the project installed on the proposed site can be highly effective in aiding reader understanding.
- F. The recommended plan should be described in sufficient detail to—
- (1) Provide a basis for authorization.
  - (2) Guide the implementation, and operation and maintenance.
  - (3) Convey to the reader the relationship of the plan to problems, opportunities, and effects.
- G. Each element should be described clearly enough to enable the reader to gain a clear picture of what is to be constructed. Noncritical features of individual measures should be described in a manner that will permit alternative solutions during final design, providing that neither the overall performance of the measures nor environmental impacts are affected.
- H. Normally, methodologies used in the plan formulation should be described in the “Inventory and Analysis” section. Reference sources of data in the document.

### **601.31 Plan Format Outline**

A suitable heavyweight material should be used for the front and back covers to provide protection and enhance the appearance of the final plan. A photographic background or art design may be used. An example of a “Front Cover Page for Watershed Plan-EA - Example” may be found in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.15, of this handbook. No specific format is required; however, at a minimum, the front cover should identify the document as shown:

- (1) [Draft/Final]
- (2) Name of watershed
- (3) State
- (4) Watershed Plan-Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment  
    (“Supplemental” or “Revised” should precede “Watershed” for modified plans)
- (5) Month and year (may be stamped)

### **601.32 Abstract (Fly Sheet)**

A sample of a “Fly Sheet” including an abstract, may be found in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.16 of this handbook.

### **601.33 Summary (OMB Fact Sheet)**

The “Summary” (or Office of Management and Budget (OMB) fact sheet) section of the watershed plan is a brief version of the plan. Nothing should be included that is not described in the body of the plan. The summary should be able to stand on its own if circulated without the rest of the document. To ensure that adequate information is provided, the form illustrated in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.17, may be used. This format also provides a quickly reproducible document for use at briefings, meetings, and other events.

### **601.34 Purpose and Need for Action**

A. The “Purpose and Need for Action” section of the watershed plan should begin with a brief (one paragraph) statement that clearly states the purpose and need for the action. This will be followed by discussion sufficient to support these statements, describing the problems and opportunities and the goals to be achieved by NRCS and the SLO. It must include at least one of the eligible program purposes from 390-NWPM, Part 500, Subpart A, Section 500.3B. This is initially established in steps one and two of the NRCS planning process and should be further refined as scoping, resource analysis, and alternative analysis validate the needs and resource conditions. It is important to accurately craft this statement as it defines the range of reasonable alternatives that will be considered in the analysis.

B. The P&G and NEPA require all reasonable alternatives to be developed and evaluated. The purpose and need for action should be scoped to limit the range of alternatives, but not so limited as to preselect an alternative.

C. The purpose and need statement should be followed by supporting information that clearly quantifies the extent and magnitude of each need to be addressed. The supporting information should include:

- (1) What is being damaged?
- (2) How much damage is occurring?

- (3) Where does the damage occur?
- (4) How frequent is the damage?

D. The needs should be stated for both present and future conditions. These should be consistent with the conditions described in the “Affected Environment” section. Desired conditions for the future should also be explicitly stated. General graphic displays depicting trends and magnitude of resource and economic conditions are useful.

E. Some problems identified during the public participation process may prove to be irrelevant to the project. These problems should be identified in this section even though they may have not been thoroughly investigated, evaluated, or addressed in planning. If it is clear that nothing can be done to address a problem, this should be explained.

F. Opportunities for improving the quality of life and enhancing environmental values should be discussed. These opportunities must reflect specific effects desired by concerned groups and individuals.

### **601.35 Scope of the EA/EIS**

A. The “Scope of the EA/EIS” section includes results that are documented in accordance with P&G and 40 CFR Section 1501.7. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) defines scope as the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an EIS (40 CFR Section 1508.25).

B. The issues relevant in defining the problems and formulating and evaluating alternative solutions are to be identified by the resource inventory, formal scoping process, and public participation activities. The scoping section should include a record of the issues that were considered, but found not to require detailed discussion in the plan. Stakeholders involved in the scoping process should agree upon the relevance of the issues, allowing the main text to focus on the important items. When a resource concern is found to be irrelevant, and sufficient rationale is provided, the concern can be eliminated from further consideration. Documentation such as letters of concurrence from regulatory agencies or citations of published technical papers, should be maintained as part of the administrative record.

C. Certain items should always be addressed in this section. The required “Resource Concerns for Scoping” are listed in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.18.

D. Title 390, NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.19, of this handbook is an example of a “Summary of Scoping,” the results of the scoping process.

### **601.36 Affected Environment**

A. The “Affected Environment” section describes pertinent physical, ecological, economic, and social information for the watershed and other areas of project impact. This provides the context for determining the effects of alternatives. Relevant concerns identified during scoping should be described. These concerns are related to resources such as water, soils, historic properties, etc. These resources have various attributes. The Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) matrix in the FOTG is a good reference when identifying attributes. In the case of water one such attribute would be clarity. An indicator of clarity is the depth to which you can see an object below the surface. This depth of clarity can be measured with a Secchi disk. The units of measure for clarity in this case might be meters. These units would be used in forecasting effects. It is in this section that the presence or absence of invasive species should be documented. Some conditions will be constant throughout the evaluated life of the project, while others will be subject to change because of social, economic, and

political influences. The information must be adequate to forecast the conditions expected to exist in the future with and without the project. The same measurement units used during the resource inventory are used for forecasting. Refer to P&G Section 3.2.1 and Appendix A, Table 2. The measurement units are used in the “Environmental Consequences” plan section and also in the “Summary and Comparison of Candidate Plans” table. These units may be associated with surrogate indicators where direct measurement of an indicator is not possible.

B. The following types of information should be provided in this section. Use of tabular data is encouraged wherever it reduces the need for narrative.

- (1) Physical conditions, such as size and location, stream systems, climate, geology, soils, and topography. A brief cultural and historical overview should also be included.
- (2) Ecological conditions, such as water quality, air quality, watershed or ecosystem health, species diversity and richness. The indicators used to establish conditions should be discussed.
- (3) Economic and social conditions within the watershed. Discuss the major social, cultural, and political factors that may influence major changes in land use or management of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resources. Include only those items that would, if realized, affect the various alternatives being considered. If none are anticipated, it should be stated. A discussion of population centers and transportation infrastructure should be included.
- (4) Present and future general land cover and uses (using the categories given in Title 180, National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH), Part 600) based on the predicted social and political factors described previously.
- (5) Other watershed amenities which are relevant to the affected area. These amenities as well other groups previously mentioned have value based on institutional recognition, public recognition, or are technically recognized. Refer to P&G Section 3.4.3 for guidance.

C. The “Affected Environment” section for supplemental plans should only describe the areas and conditions that have changed from the information presented in the original plan or that is necessary to convey the context of the supplemental action. If the supplement includes or is accompanied by an EA or EIS, the EA or EIS should contain enough description to allow the document to stand alone.

## **601.37 Alternatives**

### **A. General**

This part should help the reader follow the rationale of plan formulation from the development and comparison of alternatives to the identification of the preferred alternative.

### **B. Formulation Process**

- (1) The formulation process is the basis for selecting combinations of measures to include as alternatives.
- (2) Studies made to establish various combinations of measures (land treatment, structural, and nonstructural) should be included. Include such items as how the evaluation units were established and the incremental analysis made to determine the alternative that reasonably maximizes net contributions to NED (see 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.20, for an example of “Incremental Analysis”).

- (3) The plan should clearly state the project goals if optimizing NED benefits is not the only governing criterion.
- (4) In the formulation of alternative plans, include only increments that provide combined beneficial effects outweighing combined adverse effects.
- (5) Every identified resource concern should be addressed either by a remedial measure in at least one alternative plan or by an explanation as to why the concern could not be addressed. This might include a statement as to why a concern cannot be addressed by this program.
- (6) Include the scope of measures or methods considered but not developed into complete alternative plans and the procedure or criteria used to screen them. For example, initial studies may identify potential sites for 40 floodwater retarding structures, but further studies may eliminate 25 sites from detailed consideration because of size, costs, or adverse environmental impacts.
- (7) “Rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for alternatives which were eliminated from detailed study, briefly discuss the reasons for their having been eliminated” (40 CFR Section 1502.14(a)).

#### **C. Alternatives Eliminated From Detailed Study**

- (1) Any alternative that does not meet the stated need for action should not be considered or included in the plan.
- (2) Alternatives that meet the need for action but do not achieve the purposes may be eliminated from detailed study. These alternatives should be briefly discussed to indicate that they were considered and the reasons why they do not meet the purposes.
- (3) Alternatives may not be eliminated from detailed study simply because they are not preferred by the SLO, they are objectionable to some other parties, or NRCS has no authority to implement them. For any alternative eliminated from detailed study, the following question needs to be answered: “What is it about this alternative that makes it unreasonable?”

#### **D. Alternative Description**

- (1) Describe and compare the alternatives. The alternatives should be described in substantially equal detail. Each alternative plan, including any mitigation, should be clear regarding its components, their functions, and costs. Actions taken to address the spread of invasive species are described in this section. A map showing the location of the plan elements for each alternative plan should be included if needed for clarity. Land treatment measure locations need not be shown, but the general area to be treated should be shown on the map or described.
- (2) Where applicable, include a description of the hazard potential of each alternative, such as an explanation of the rationale for dam classification and the risk of dam failure from overtopping or other causes. Any damages and flood hazards expected after the project is installed should be described.
- (3) The FWOP or “No Action” alternative is required for all plans and is not to be eliminated from detailed study (Council on Environmental Quality – NEPA’s Forty Most Asked Questions (40 MAQ’s), Response to Question 3).
- (4) The NED alternative in water resource plans or an alternative that achieves an acceptable reduction in the offsite or public problem being addressed in watershed protection plans is required in all plans.

#### **E. Summary and Comparison of Alternative Plans Table**

- (1) Summarize the alternative plans in a comparative form, in substantially equal detail, by using a “Summary and Comparison of Alternative Plans” table. Include major items used in the decisionmaking process. Those concerns determined to be relevant from the table “Summary of Scoping” (see 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.19, in this handbook) should be included as a minimum. Significant differences between the alternative plans should be shown. The FWOP (no-action) conditions should be included to allow a complete comparison. Estimated costs and cost sharing should also be included. This table allows the reader to see what the Public Law 83-566 contribution to each alternative would be. An example table for the “Summary and Comparison of Alternative Plans” is shown in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.21, of this handbook.
- (2) Discussion of the environmental impacts of the alternatives should be limited to a concise descriptive summary of the impacts in a comparative form, including charts or tables that sharply define the issues and provide a clear basis for choice among options. The “Environmental Consequences” section of the plan provides the detailed analysis. Items that are being tracked in the NRCS benefits database should be included wherever applicable.
- (3) The four accounts (NED, Environmental Quality (EQ), Other Social Effects (OSE), and Regional Economic Development (RED)) of the P&G may be used as a framework for the comparison. The relevant concerns in the “Summary of Scoping” table could be broken down into the following accounts. Other items that might be incorporated include but are not limited to the following:

- (i) NED Account (required for water resource projects).—The NED account tracks the following kinds of costs and benefits in dollar terms:

Reduced crop damage from flooding, erosion, or sedimentation  
Land voiding and depreciation  
Onsite savings in water  
Maintaining productivity for the evaluation period  
Maintaining productivity for future generations  
Offsite sediment damage reduction  
Increased values of offsite properties  
Reduced treatment costs for municipal and industrial (M&I) water  
Increased recreation use  
Increased fish and wildlife values  
Offsite savings in water

- (ii) EQ Account

Degree to which State standards are met  
Fish and wildlife improvements  
Scenic or aesthetic improvements  
Rare, threatened, and endangered species habitat improvement  
Other downstream effects

- (iii) OSE Account

Effects to historic properties  
Impact on disadvantaged persons  
Impact on rural development  
Nuisance or safety effects  
Health effects  
Social well-being  
Social indicators  
Length of time in farming, land tenure, planning horizons, educational level, and ethnic groupings  
Risk of loss of life

Social effects of maintaining productivity

(iv) RED Account

Effects on employment

Effects on income

Effects on other regional economic activity

Miscellaneous effects on rural development

- (4) The P&G subdivides the EQ account into ecological, cultural, and aesthetic attributes. It may be helpful to further subdivide the ecological attributes into the five resources addressed by the FOTG: soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

## 601.38 Environmental Consequences

A. The intent of the “Environmental Consequences” section is to provide the analytical basis for the comparisons of effects presented in the alternatives. This section will describe the economic, environmental, and social effects of each alternative. The relevant concerns identified in the scoping table (390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.18, “Resource Concerns for Scoping”) should be discussed in this section of the plan. The type and kind of information depend on the location, type, scope, and complexity of the planned action. All alternatives including FWOP (no action) should be treated in substantially equal detail. The description of impacts should be expressed in resource concern indicator measurement units or environmental concern. The items listed should be the same as the relevant concerns in the scoping table. All relevant concerns should be addressed.

B. The discussion for each concern should begin with a description of existing conditions related to that concern. Existing conditions may be summarized from the “Affected Environment” section, or reference provided. This should be followed by FWOP conditions, and then by the impacts of each alternative plan. An example outline follows:

- (1) Floodwater Damage
  - Existing conditions
  - FWOP (no-action)
  - Alternative 1
  - Alternative 2
- (2) Wetlands
  - Existing conditions
  - FWOP (no-action)
  - Alternative 1
  - Alternative 2

C. This is an outline for the discussion, not a summary table. The discussion should continue in similar fashion for all the relevant concerns considering the context and intensity of impacts to each. The discussion of existing resources should give the reader a general knowledge of those resources in the area that would be affected by the various alternative plans.

D. Problems or opportunities should be described by evaluation unit. Give as much detail as needed to explain the existence of a problem or the affect of each alternative on a resource. Avoid repeating information given in the “Affected Environment” or “Purpose and Need” sections. The FWOP discussion would present the most likely future conditions. The basis for forecasting must be stated. The effects of the conservation compliance and conservation reserve provisions of the Food Security Act should be included in the projections.

E. If erosion and sediment problems have been identified or if cost-shared land treatment is proposed, the ongoing land treatment program should be described. Indicate how long the ongoing program would take to complete the job. In cases where a project is addressing resource deterioration (as opposed to, for example, recurring flood damage to existing land uses), the FWOP discussion should describe that aspect of the problem.

F. Evaluation units and time frames should be used where appropriate. Impacts should be described for each alternative. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be identified. The narrative should present data in summary form, using tables, drawings, maps, and other graphics. If an extensive listing of data needs to be included, it should be shown in an appendix. The “Effects of Alternative Plans” section should fully explain the degree or extent to which each problem or opportunity is satisfied. For example, if flooding is a problem, any damages and flood hazards expected after the project is installed should be clearly described.

G. If the project has recreational benefits and must go to the Public Works Committee, describe the usage of other similar public recreational facilities within the general area of the project and the anticipated impact of the alternatives on the usage of such existing recreational facilities (see section 928 of Public Law 99-662).

H. Describe the relationship of the alternatives to local and regional comprehensive plans and land and water use plans, policies, and controls. Discuss compliance with Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, when applicable. Also include the relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would be caused by the installation of an alternative. These items are probably best handled in separate subsections after all the items from the “Identified Concerns” table have been addressed.

I. The context of the impacts is to be provided in relation to the severity of the impacts. Different contexts are often a matter of scale such as the site, stream reach, stream segment, watershed, or river basin. For example, the loss of 10 acres of bottomland hardwoods may or may not constitute a significant impact based on the context. If the 10-acre loss is in the midst of 10,000 acres in the immediate vicinity, the loss may be negligible compared to the loss of 10 acres of the last remaining 100-acre block of bottomland hardwoods in the watershed. Both short-term and long-term impacts should be considered. See CEQ regulations in CFR Section 1508.27(a).

J. The phrase “intensity of the impacts” refers to the severity of impacts. See CEQ regulations in CFR Section 1508.27(b).

K. The following factors, when relevant, should be evaluated to determine if the action will have a significant effect on the human environment appropriate to the degree of an EA or an EIS.

- (1) Environmental Effects.—Effects should be quantitative or qualitative and discussed in terms of context and intensity. The “Investigation and Analysis” appendix should substantiate the fact that the effects are based on sound factual economic, social, and scientific evidence acquired through various analytical approaches. It is better for instance, to simply identify a 40-acre reduction in lacustrine habitat, than to categorize it as being an adverse effect. Within the context of cost-benefit analysis, however, it would be inappropriate to ignore the longstanding conventions of identifying expenditures as costs or adverse effects, and returns as benefits or beneficial effects.



- (2) **Public Health and Safety.**—Effects in this category include such items as risk of flood, drought, or other disaster affecting the security of life or health; potential loss of life, property, and essential public services due to structural failure; and other environmental effects such as changes in air or water quality. It is not sufficient to state that these concerns have been fully addressed by simply complying with existing safety and performance criteria. These criteria have changed in the past and are likely to change in the future. They may become more or less stringent. Remaining hazards are to be identified. Do not indicate that the possibility of future damages has been eliminated.
- (3) **Unique Geographic Characteristics.**—Additional characteristics may include unique land forms, scenic vistas, karst topography, aquifer recharge areas, etc. This is a broad category and the proceeding list is not all-inclusive.
- (4) **Historic and Cultural Properties.**—Effects to historic and cultural properties (that is, those districts, sites, structures, or objects, listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or sites of significance to an American Indian Tribe, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians) will require consultation with State historic preservation officers, Tribal historic preservation officers, federally recognized Tribes, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other concerned and affected organizations and individuals. Mitigation or other appropriate actions may be required. For further information, consult the Title 190, National Cultural Resources Handbook (NCRH), Part 601.
- (5) **Parklands.**—Describe the effects on any State, county or national parkland.
- (6) **Prime Farmlands.**—Describe the degree that the proposed action will affect prime or unique farmland, or farmlands of statewide or local importance.
- (7) **Wetlands.**—The effects section should include the probable beneficial or adverse effects on identified wetlands and how these effects relate to the wetland conversion provisions of the Food Security Act. Special attention should be given to jurisdictional wetlands that may be affected by project activity.
- (8) **Floodplains.**—If the preferred plan leaves a risk of loss of life from the 100-year flood, the plan should include the following information:
  - (i) A thorough description of the remaining flood hazard in the benefitted area for the 100-year and 500-year floods, including the approximate number, kinds, and location of properties subject to continued flooding and the depths and velocities of flooding.
  - (ii) A map showing the urban areas expected to be flooded by the 100-year and 500-year floods with and without the project.
- (9) **Wild and Scenic Rivers.**—Each designated river is administered by either a Federal or State agency. Designated segments may not include the entire river and may include tributaries. Consult with the administering agency (invite to be a cooperating agency if appropriate), and then discuss the consultation and describe the impacts to the river in the document.
- (10) **Ecologically Critical Areas.**—This may include resources such as riparian areas, natural areas, or special aquatic sites.
- (11) **Controversy.**—Almost anytime that a diverse group of agencies and individuals participate in a project, there will be some disagreement over the proposed action or the determination of the effects. This should be expected. A high level of controversy may indicate other weaknesses in the analysis and may mean the nature or extent of the impact is significant.
- (12) **Risk and Uncertainty.**—Alternatives and their effects should be examined to determine the level of uncertainty inherent in the data or various assumptions of future economic, demographic, social, attitudinal, environmental, and technological

trends. Methods for making these determinations are described in P&G Section 1.4.13. This section should discuss the areas of sensitivity in each of the alternatives. Risk and uncertainty may involve increased costs or reduced benefits through adjustments in design. These facts should be clearly described in order to show the effects on each alternative. This section does not eliminate the need for discussing risk and uncertainty in other parts of the plan where appropriate.

- (13) Precedent.—If the proposed action would set a precedent for future actions with significant effects, or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration, the action is likely significant.
- (14) Cumulative Impacts.—Describe the impacts that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Further guidance can be found in the NECH and at the “Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act” Web site:  
<http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/ccenepa/ccenepa.htm>.
- (15) Endangered and Threatened Species.—Consult with the FWS regarding the presence of threatened and endangered (T&E) species within areas that may be affected by the proposed action, and if present, the potential for impacts. Further consultation may be required. For further information see the NECH.
- (16) Visual Impacts.—Determine the potential visual impacts of the proposed project alternatives by conducting a visual impact assessment. This is especially important if the project site has a high visual quality, is in a field of view where large numbers of people can see the project, or if visible in a very scenic landscape or from a protected scenic corridor or byway.
- (17) Compliance with Federal, State, and local laws (including any permit requirements).

L. The following are commonly identified as requiring additional analysis in an EIS. Some of them also apply to an EA.

- (1) Adverse effects that cannot be avoided
- (2) The relationship between short-term use and long-term productivity
- (3) Irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources
- (4) Possible conflicts with land use plans, policies, and controls for the area
- (5) Energy and natural or depletable resource requirements (conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures)
- (6) Urban quality and the design of the built environment
- (7) Means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts

### **601.39 Consultation, Coordination, and Public Participation**

A. If minorities, low-income populations, or Indian Tribes are identified in the plan summary demographic information, specific efforts to engage these groups in the planning process need to be documented in this section of the plan. Special note should be made of consultation requirements with the State historic preservation officer and appropriate federally recognized Tribes regarding consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, as amended. Several other Executive orders, secretarial orders, departmental regulations, and presidential memoranda require nation-to-nation consultation with Tribal governments. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service also require consultation for threatened and endangered species.

- B. If the Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared a report as provided for in Public Law 83-566, Section 12, it should be mentioned here.
- C. Where a project will affect wetlands that could be converted to a commodity crop, show that the SLO and land users have been informed and are aware of the potential effect of the wetland conversion provisions and of the actions needed to avoid loss of program benefits.
- D. List of Persons and Agencies Consulted.—List the persons and agencies that were consulted during the planning process. This may include any agency that provided formal or required consultation, or individuals who were conferred with and who provided substantial input.
- E. Final Plans.—The final plan should include a discussion of the interagency and public review of the draft. For a Plan-EIS, responses to all comments should be included. The most convenient way to do this is usually to include responses in an appendix with the comment letters. For a Plan-EA, a summary in this section of the comments received and actions taken is normally sufficient.

## **601.40 The Preferred Alternative**

### **A. Rationale for Plan Preference**

If the NED plan is selected for a water resource project, the rationale need not be extensive because the primary objective is to maximize net economic benefits. Key factors that influenced the decision should be described. If the NED plan is not selected for a water resource project, an exception to the P&G rule is needed. The following information should be provided as appropriate:

- (i) Status of the NED exception.
- (ii) A description of the NED plan is always required.
- (iii) A description of the preferred plan is always required.
- (iv) A description of the added increment that reduces NED net benefits.
- (v) Sometimes the preferred plan differs from the NED plan in ways that can easily be described as a separate increment, such as when a structural auxiliary spillway is to be used rather than a less-costly nonstructural auxiliary spillway. The incremental cost is being undertaken to reduce the likelihood of an auxiliary spillway failure associated with events whose flows exceed design parameters. In other cases, it might be more difficult to think of the preferred plan as constituting an added increment. This might occur when entirely different approaches are being used to address the purpose and need, such as when one alternative would address a flood problem with a dam and another would address that same problem by relocating downstream residences. There may even be instances in which the added increment is achieved with a reduction in costs. The increment is that improvement that is achieved by the identified reduction in NED net benefits.
- (vi) All beneficial effects, including the NED benefits, of the added increment.
- (vii) All adverse effects, including the NED costs, of the added increment.
- (viii) The reduction in NED net benefits associated with the added increment. These constitute the net economic benefits foregone by including the added increment. This represents the net economic cost of obtaining the noneconomic net benefits of the added increment.
- (ix) A description of the other Federal, State, or local concerns being addressed and the degree to which they are satisfied by the added increment. The information is

to be presented objectively, but the discussion is to make clear why the SLO is asking for an exception and how the reduction in NED net benefits is justified by the increase in non-NED net benefits.

- (x) A statement that, in comparing the preferred plan and the NED plan, the preferred plan has an increase in net benefits associated with the non-NED accounts greater than the reduction in net benefits associated with the NED account. For instance, in selecting the preferred plan in the following table, the RFO is saying that the identified reduction in the likelihood of auxiliary spillway failure is worth at least \$9,000 annually over the period of the analysis at the specified discount rate.

Figure 601-D1

	NED Plan (Vegetated Auxiliary Spillway)	Preferred Plan (Structural Auxiliary Spillway)	Added Increment
NED Benefits	\$80,000	\$81,000	\$1,000
NED Costs	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$10,000
NED Net Benefits	\$50,000	\$41,000	-\$9,000
Non-NED Consideration: Probability of auxiliary spillway failure in any given year	1/1,000	1/100,000	Reduction in the likelihood of auxiliary spillway failure in any given year from 1/1,000 to 1/100,000

- In the following table, the RFO would have to conclude that it was worth a \$10,000 reduction in average annual NED net benefits over the period of the analysis at the prescribed discount rate in order to reduce the population at risk by 9,000 from the **500-year event**.
- Both of these examples are admittedly simplistic in that there is a single tradeoff—reductions in NED net benefits for a single non-NED net benefit improvement. The more variables, the more subjective the decision becomes.

Figure 601-D2

	NED Plan (Dam)	Preferred Plan (Relocation)	Added Increment
NED Benefits	\$90,000	\$45,000	-\$45,000
NED Costs	\$70,000	\$35,000	-\$35,000
NED Net Benefits	\$20,000	\$10,000	-\$10,000
Non-NED Consideration: Population at risk from the <b>500-year event</b> , with the	10,000	1,000	9,000 fewer people at risk from the <b>500-year event</b>

project functioning correctly.			
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## B. Measures to be Installed

This section describes the measures to be installed by the preferred alternative, including any mitigation.

- (i) State that there are limitations on technical and financial assistance. For example, assistance will be provided only when it contributes to achieving project objectives. Similar structures may be grouped for discussion purposes.
- (ii) Acknowledge the measures associated with the watershed project are one component of many efforts for natural resources management in the project area. Identify other efforts, beyond NRCS, to address natural resource issues and concerns. Describe the relationship of the ongoing programs to the Watershed Program. Indicate the ongoing programs that will be implemented without project action and if the Watershed Program will supplement the ongoing program.
- (iii) Emphasize that participation in the Watershed Program is voluntary and that the SLO, the land user, or both make final decisions on measures to be installed. If the plan includes cost sharing for onfarm conservation measures, provide an estimate of the participation rate. The types and amounts of assistance (technical and financial) that will be provided should be described. Technical assistance may be described in terms of person-years and category (for example, soil surveys, conservation planning, or practice application) or costs. Financial assistance costs in terms of the types and amounts of measures, or interdependent practices, for which assistance will be provided.
- (iv) Separate discussions are needed for each evaluation unit. Describe the amount of erosion, condition of the impaired use, and sediment damage that will remain after installation of the measures. State that alternative practices that provide equal or greater benefits are permitted, but that cost-share amount is limited to the amount that would have been paid for the practices in the selected plan.
- (v) Problem areas, for which assistance is to be provided, should be identified on maps in sufficient detail to guide the implementation of the plan, but it is not intended that every acre be identified. Describe any specific criteria to be used to make a final determination of eligibility during implementation. Describe the practices, or interdependent practices, expected to be used to solve identified problems and achieve identified objectives. Also, provide an estimate of the acres by land use for which technical and financial assistance will be provided.
- (vi) For Federal land, describe the conservation land treatment measures jointly agreed upon by NRCS, the land administering agency, and the SLO. Give any other pertinent information that would clarify the work to be done.
- (vii) For wetland or floodplain acquisition or conservation easements, describe the location and amount of land, the type of rights to be acquired, and the planned land use, and include a map. It should be evident that the land rights to be acquired are needed to provide a floodway and that elements are included to provide for any changed land use. Any new property acquired as the result of floodplain acquisition should become a part of required assessments for environmental, historic property, and cultural resources impacts.
- (viii) Identify locations of buildings and the type of floodproofing. The plan should include sufficient details concerning the existing buildings to show that they are suitable for floodproofing. If a flood warning system is to be provided, describe

its type and location and include sufficient details concerning its operation to show that the system will function. Buildings considered for floodproofing must have an historic property evaluation as part of the planning process.

- (ix) Describe the type, number, and location of existing floodplain buildings and facilities to be moved. Make it clear that the repositioned properties are located in flood-free areas. Buildings considered for moving must have an historic property evaluation as part of the planning process.
- (x) The narrative should describe reservoir type structures. The narrative should refer to “Structural Table 3 - Dams with Planned Storage Capacity” (390-NWPM, Part 506, Subpart B, Section 506.15). It should include such items as the following:
  - Foundation conditions
  - Kind of principal spillway (including the type of inlet and outlet)
  - Kind of auxiliary spillway (that is, rock, earth, structural, other)
  - Frequency of storm controlled by the principal spillway and retarding storage
  - Type of fill material
  - Type and extent of clearing to be performed
  - Design life of structures and portion of sediment capacity that will initially store water
  - Borrow (type, location, relation to geology, and land rights)
  - Provisions for safeguarding public health, water quality, sanitation, and safety
- (xi) The text should describe the potential hazard induced by risk of failure of a dam. Point out that although a dam failure is not expected, there is always some remote possibility of failure and that failure, if it were to occur, would endanger any development in the breach inundation area. Also include information on the geologic or design factors that could contribute to the possible failure of a dam, and design features that have been included to reduce the risk.
- (xii) The text should refer to the breach inundation map in the appendix of the plan. Explain the rationale for determining the dam classification. Explain that class “low” and “significant” dams are designed for less than the probable maximum flood and therefore, overtopping and subsequent failure are a possibility. The assigned NRCS hazard classification determined from technical evaluations must have concurrence by the RFO, usually the State conservation engineer. Include precautions against future development within the breach inundation area of class “low” and “significant” dams. The SLO is responsible for any required structural modifications as a result of safety hazard class changes associated with development within the breach inundation area. For class “high” dams, explain that an emergency action plan needs to be developed by the SLO and other local groups before initiating construction.
- (xiii) The text should describe channel characteristics by reaches along the path of the proposed channel work, including the materials through which channels will be constructed. The narrative should refer to “Structural Table 3b - Channel Work” (390-NWPM, Part 506, Subpart B, Section 506.17). The nature of the planned construction, operation, and maintenance by reaches should be further subdivided as follows:
  - Establishment of new channel including necessary stabilization measures.
  - Enlargement or alignment of existing channel or stream
  - Cleanout of natural or manmade channel (includes bar removal, removal of loose debris, and major clearing and snagging)

- Stabilization as the primary purpose by continuous treatment or treatment of localized problem areas—present capacity adequate
  - Measures or means provided to prevent private landowners from using federally cost-shared channels as outlets for private onfarm drainage of wetlands or bottom land hardwood habitat
  - Presence of rock or other material that will significantly affect the design of the channel
- (xiv) The text should refer to “Economic Table 2b - Recreational Facilities, Estimated Construction Costs” (390-NWPM, Part 506, Subpart B, Section 506.14) for basic recreational facilities. Write narrative on public recreation facilities to include information on the following:
- Land and water areas made available for recreational use by project action
  - Kind and nature of recreational facilities to be installed in sufficient detail to indicate their quality
  - Relationship between the components of the development—water resource improvements and associated facilities
  - Provisions for public access, health, sanitation, safety, and accessibility and usability by individuals with disabilities
- (xv) The following information for each measure should be included:
- Minimum land rights (acres) by proposed use and availability for public use
  - Approximate planned amount of each plan element
  - Planned appurtenances
  - Alteration, modification, or change in existing improvements
  - Number and kind of relocations that will result from acquisition of real property rights including number of persons or families affected
  - Action to be taken to minimize soil erosion, and water, air, and noise pollution during construction
  - Identification and possible effects to historic properties and cultural resources, all consultation undertaken, and any proposed mitigation actions
  - Nonproject features—steps to be taken to minimize the project effects on these values
  - Actions to be taken to prevent the spread of noxious weeds

### **C. Mitigation Features**

Features or provisions to mitigate losses and other adverse effects should be discussed. Whatever the feature is mitigating should be clear (40 CFR Section 1502.16(h)). Discuss the monitoring requirements and develop of a monitoring plan for the mitigation features. If the project does not have mitigation features, this section may be omitted.

### **D. Permits and Compliance**

A list of all Federal, State, and local permits and other entitlements that must be obtained and consultation that must be completed to implement the preferred plan should be included. If none are required, include a sentence so stating (40 CFR Section 1502.25). If the plan will also be used in its present form to obtain a permit, that should be noted here with all supporting information included in the appendix. If a “404” permit will be required, consider compliance with EPA’s Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) “Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material.” Explain if additional cultural resources or endangered species consultation will be required before project or practice installation.

## E. Costs

- (1) Explain the costs shown on tables 1, 2, 2a, 2b, and 4 (see exhibits in 390-NWPM, Part 506, Subpart B). Make reference to the appropriate table. Avoid repeating the figures in the tables. The explanation of the costs should be in enough detail to ensure that the SLO has a full understanding of their obligations. The narrative should describe each cost category (that is, land treatment, construction, engineering, real property acquisition, project administration, relocation payments, operation and maintenance, and nonproject). Explain what each category consists of and highlight any significant cost items not shown separately on the tables.
- (2) Cost estimates for major subitems not listed in the tables should be described and included in the narrative. For example, project administration costs include relocation assistance advisory services and other items. It should be clear that all significant cost items have been included in the estimates. Joint costs and specific costs for multiple-purpose structures should be described. If costs are allocated to purposes, this section should explain the method of cost allocation. It should also show any allocated costs that are not included in the tables.
- (3) This section should identify the measures eligible for cost sharing and the cost-share rates.

## F. Installation and Financing

- (1) **Framework for Carrying Out the Plan.**—Describe the planned sequence of installation, along with the responsibilities of the SLO, NRCS, and other cooperating agencies for installing and financing the project. Where cost-shared onfarm measures are involved, the responsibilities of the individual participants should also be explained. Any preconditions for installing the project should be discussed.
- (2) **Planned Sequence of Installation.**—Show the sequence in which the project measures will be installed. If certain parts of the work must be installed or completed before others, this should be explained. The plan should specify any mitigation measures that must be installed and their relationship to the construction schedule. Describe the real property that must be acquired and the land treatment that must be installed before installing structural or nonstructural measures. The plan must show that the SLO has sufficient funds and agrees to use its power of eminent domain to acquire the needed rights. Including a schedule for real property acquisition in the plan is a good practice. Generally, acquisition of all real property for the project in the first 2 or 3 years of the installation period is desirable. Watershed Program assistance for the first unit of construction may be provided before all necessary real property for the entire project is obtained.
- (3) **Responsibilities.**—Specific responsibilities of each SLO and the NRCS should be listed. The plan must show that the SLOs have the needed authorities and have agreed to exercise those authorities to implement the plan. Items that should be covered for each planned measure include acquisition of real property rights; water, mineral, and other resource rights; permits, licenses, and other entitlements; contracting; engineering; project administration; relocation advisory services; financing; and installation.
- (4) **Contracting.**—Indicate the method of contracting used for installing the planned measures and name the SLO responsible for dealing with NRCS during installation. The plan should state clearly, as appropriate, that the SLO intends to do the contracting, or NRCS is formally requested to do a specific part or all of the contracting.



If long-term contracts (LTCs) for cost-shared land treatment are to be used, describe whether the plan involves an NRCS-participant LTC or an NRCS-SLO project agreement with an SLO-participant LTC. Also include the general requirements of NRCS long-term contract policy that will be used in project delivery, such as the following:

- That each LTC will be based on a plan or schedule of operations developed by the participant and approved by the soil and water conservation district and NRCS
  - The expected range of duration of the LTC
  - That no LTC will be signed until the initial participation requirement specified in the watershed agreement has been met
  - That all required conservation treatment will be installed at least 2 years before the end of the contract
- (5) **Real Property and Relocations.**—Describe the real property needed and the number and kind of relocations that will result from the proposed action. Identify the SLO and their responsibilities, and indicate that they will follow standard NRCS procedures as outlined in Property Management Regulations in conformance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-646).
- (6) **Other Agencies.**—Describe the responsibilities of and types of assistance to be made available by each Federal agency in accomplishing the plan. Specifically indicate concurrence of any land managing agency with its part in carrying out the plan, except for the FS, which is a USDA agency with responsibilities in plan development and implementation. When the plan includes works of improvement to be installed on Federal and non-Federal land, the plan should show how Watershed Program funds will be used in combination with funds available from regular program sources. Appropriate explanatory statements should set forth the opportunities for Federal assistance from other programs, including cost-sharing programs of USDA and community development block grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (7) **Cultural Resources.**—If protection, preservation, recovery, or any other mitigation of activities to reduce adverse effects to historic properties is anticipated, provide a summary of the proposed historic property treatment plans. These plans are usually in the form of a specific memorandum of agreement between the NRCS, State historic preservation officer, Tribal historic preservation officer, and other appropriate signatory or concerned parties. The summary should include responsibilities for financing and carrying out such plans and the timing with respect to implementation. This section should state that if cultural resources are discovered during construction, construction will be halted and the procedures of the current State-level agreement for cultural resources or the NRCS Title 190, National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook, Part 601, will be followed.
- (8) **Financing**
- (i) The plan should show how the SLO and the Federal Government will finance installation, operation, and maintenance costs. It should be clearly indicated that the SLO has analyzed its financial needs in relation to the scheduled installation and the operation and maintenance requirements for the works of improvement, and that they have arranged for funds to be available when needed through donations, cash reserves, tax or assessment levies, or credit.

The plan should include an estimate of the out-of-pocket costs to be borne by the SLO and should show that projected revenues are adequate.

- (ii) If loans are contemplated, show that sources of credit have been contacted with favorable results. If a watershed loan from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is contemplated, indicate that negotiations are underway with the regional director of the RUS, including the filing of a preapplication.
  - (iii) Describe the extent to which donations, such as land, easements, labor, material, equipment, services, or money, will be used to finance the costs other than those payable with Watershed Program funds. Where applicable, indicate that the SLO may receive credit for such contributions toward their required cost sharing under conditions to be agreed upon in advance of their performance (see 390-NWPM, Part 506, Subpart B, Sections 504.11 and 504.12).
  - (iv) Costs not eligible for Watershed Program financial or credit assistance should be identified. The means of financing such costs should be described.
  - (v) When an advance of Watershed Program funds for future M&I water supply is involved, this section of the plan should show—
    - The estimated amount of the advance, the type of cost for which it will be used, and that the cost will not exceed 30 percent of the total estimated installation cost of the structure involved.
    - That the SLO will enter into an agreement, approved by the RUS for repayment of the advance before the execution of the NRCS fund obligating agreement.
    - That the SLO intends to use the water from the storage capacity provided for future municipal use within the evaluation period of the structure.
    - That the regional director of the RUS has tentatively concurred in the proposed advance.
- (9) **Conditions for Providing Assistance.**—The plan should describe the conditions under which Watershed Program assistance will be made available to the SLO and show that financial and other assistance to be furnished by NRCS for carrying out the project is contingent on the appropriation of funds for this purpose. Items to consider include requirements for land treatment, real property acquisition, and permits.

## **G. Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement**

- (1) Operation, maintenance, and replacement responsibilities should be described in the same detail as those for installation. All project features should be described. The SLO will be responsible for operating, maintaining, and replacing (when needed) each planned measure. This responsibility includes the financing of these actions.
- (2) Where cost-shared land treatment is involved, the evaluated life span of the practices and any replacement costs that have been included should be indicated. Guidance on practice life spans may be found in Title 180, National Operations and Maintenance Manual (NOMM), Part 500.
- (3) The plan should identify the responsibilities for operating and maintaining the measures to ensure their effectiveness throughout the evaluation period. They include the use of water in regulated storage capacity; operation of any control works such as tide gates; the legal steps required to establish operating authority; and other significant O&M items.
- (4) If the plan includes components that have an expected life span that is less than the evaluation period, discuss the need and arrangements for their replacement. The kinds of inspections to be made and their frequency should be described. If national

forestland is included in the project area, specify that the inspection team will include an FS member.

- (5) Sufficient detail should be included to ensure that the requirements and costs for adequate operation and maintenance are fully understood and that arrangements have been made or can be made to satisfy these requirements. This matter is particularly significant for recreational developments because the operation and maintenance of even a modest recreation development may be a significant part of the total operation and maintenance responsibility for the entire project. Because recreation facilities generally require periodic replacement during the project evaluation period, the plan should show the extent to which replacement costs have been included. Custodial, policing, sanitation, safety, and other operational services and the manner of financing operation and maintenance costs should be described fully. If admission or use charges are contemplated, the plan should indicate the basis that will be used for establishing fees.
- (6) Specific reference should be made to the provisions and responsibilities for operation and maintenance of fish and wildlife features or measures, fish and wildlife mitigation features, needed sanitary facilities, provisions for public access at any of the project measures, and any unusual operational needs and major maintenance work that may be anticipated. Include provisions for monitoring if appropriate. Provisions should be included to ensure that installation and operation and maintenance of the planned features meet the requirements of appropriate State and local public health agencies. This point is especially important if recreation or municipal water supply, or both, are involved. Identify the agencies involved.
- (7) Include a statement that a specific operation and maintenance agreement will be entered into before a project agreement is signed (this includes project agreements for installing land treatment with SLO-participant long-term contracts). In addition to specific sponsor responsibilities for the project measures, the O&M agreement must include specific provisions for retention, use, and disposal of property acquired or improved with Public Law 83-566 assistance. The plan should also state that the O&M agreement will be based on 180-NOMM, Part 500, and that an operation and maintenance plan will be prepared for each measure. Indicate, where appropriate, that an emergency action plan will be developed.

#### **H. Economic and Structural Tables**

- (1) The economic and structural tables are in the 390-NWPM, Part 506, Subpart B, Sections 506.10 to 506.21. The tables are designed to meet as many conditions in a watershed as can be readily anticipated to exist. Show those items or measures applicable to the specific watershed plan. Tables 1 through 6 should use the format shown to facilitate review and summary purposes. Items not applicable to a particular plan may be omitted.
- (2) Prime-numbered tables generally are necessary in all plans. Use A and B tables only if applicable. Watershed protection plans should include tables 1 and 4 as a minimum. Date all tables with the month and year; the date must be reasonably current. Dollar figures in the tables should be rounded to a practical level of significance.

#### **601.41 References**

If supporting data are incorporated by reference, include information on how the reader can arrange to review it.

## **601.42 List of Preparers**

- A. In some cases it may be appropriate to list the agency or firm that provided the input rather than the individuals.
- B. Include a brief description of the NRCS State staff and NWMC review process that was used. A sample description follows: “The draft watershed plan and environmental impact statement was reviewed and concurred with by State staff specialists having responsibility for engineering, soils, agronomy, range conservation, biology, cultural resources, forestry, and geology. This review was followed by review of the document by the NWMC. A similar review was also provided by U.S. Forest Service personnel.”
- C. An example “List of Preparers” is included in 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.22, of this handbook.

## **601.43 Distribution List**

There is no further guidance in the handbook corresponding to this section in the manual.

## **601.44 Index**

There is no further guidance in the handbook corresponding to this section in the manual.

## **601.45 Appendices**

### **A. Appendix A – Comments and Responses**

Letters are not required to be included when an EA is prepared unless they include significant comments.

### **B. Appendix B – Project Map**

- (1) The project map should include, where appropriate, the boundaries of urban areas and public lands, such as State or national forests, grazing districts, or military reservations. Additional information, such as important farmlands and stream reaches, may also be included. Do not include specific information on the location of historic properties or other archaeological sites. Care should be taken so that the project map does not become cluttered and unclear. Additional maps may be used to show these or other features.
- (2) The project map should be large enough to show benefited areas and project features. Color maps are standard for all project maps. The map should be prepared so that it can be extended for easy reference while the plan is being reviewed.

### **C. Appendix C – Support maps (as appropriate)**

- (1) Recreational Development Map.—If one or more recreational developments are planned as a project purpose, include a map or sketch will be included to show the general layout of each development. The map should include pertinent features such as—
  - (i) The boundaries of the development.
  - (ii) Purchase area boundaries.
  - (iii) The dam and auxiliary spillway.
  - (iv) The surface area of the recreational pool.
  - (v) The high water line of the reservoir.

- (vi) The location and kind of principal use areas (picnicking, camping, bathing, parking, boat ramps) and the access roads.
- (2) **Urban Floodplain Map.**—Where existing or likely future urban or built-up areas are affected by the project measures, include maps to show those areas that will be flooded by a 100-year event and 500-year event, with and without the preferred plan. Other flood lines may be included as appropriate. Items excluded by FOIA, such as the location, contents, or importance of a particular cultural resource should not be included. A recent aerial photograph is preferred as the base. The map should be referred to in the discussion of effects.
- (3) **Breach Inundation Map.**—This map is required for all NRCS inventory dams and levees (see Title 210, National Engineering Manual (NEM), Part 520, Subpart C, Sections 520.27 to 520.28) and dikes. For hazard class “high” dams and class “I” dikes, detailed maps will be similar to the urban floodplain maps. If other dams and dikes are involved, they should be clearly described by the use of maps, by narrative description, or both. Information shown on the map will be the same as specified in the emergency action plan outlined in 180-NOMM, Part 500.

#### **D. Appendix D – Investigations and Analyses Report**

- (1) Information of a routine nature, such as how surveys are made or the kind of maps used, is not necessary unless something unusual about the study requires their inclusion to support the decisions made. Likewise, methods, procedures, or criteria should be identified, but need not be discussed if they are covered in national correspondence, handbooks, manuals, technical releases, or other such documents. A discussion of the intensity of study is desirable when it reflects the reliability of results or the extent that studies have been completed and will not have to be expanded upon during the operation stage. A summary of the incremental analysis for each evaluation unit in the NED and preferred plans should be included.
- (2) The cultural resource section should only contain information available for public review. For further guidance see (3) The report should also discuss any significant physical, economic, or environmental interactions between the preferred plan and any existing or planned Federal or non-Federal projects. If such interactions are a significant factor in choosing among alternatives, this discussion should go in the “Alternatives” section rather than here. In that case, the interactions of each alternative, not just the preferred plan, should be described. Show the annualized NED benefits, costs, and net benefits over the entire period of analysis and the benefit-cost ratio for each alternative.
- (4) Consideration should be given to displaying information concerning watershed protection in a “Conservation Effects for Decisionmakers” format (see example in the FOTG). At times, State agencies, consultants employed by the SLO, or agencies from Departments other than the Department of Agriculture conduct certain investigations, submit reports, and make recommendations. If this is done, the agency or consultant should be identified with the study. This is generally associated with the investigations for recreation, water quality, fish and wildlife, municipal and industrial water supply, or any other category.

#### **E. Appendix E – Other Supporting Information**

Use this section rather than the body of the document if tabular or other supporting data are needed to make a point. In the final version of a Plan-EA, a copy of the FONSI could be included here.