



Environmental Screening Form



Ohio Department of Natural Resources



The purpose of this Environmental Screening Form (ESF) is to provide environmental information about Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) state assistance proposals that are submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) by ODNR for review and decision. The completed ESF becomes part of the “federal administrative record” in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. The ESF portion is designed for project sponsors to use while the LWCF proposal is under development. Upon completion, the ESF will indicate the resources that could be impacted by the proposal enabling project sponsors to more accurately follow an appropriate pathway for NEPA analysis: 1) a recommendation for a Categorical Exclusion (CE), 2) production of an Environmental Assessment (EA), or 3) production of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The ESF should also be used to document any previously conducted yet still viable environmental analysis if used for this federal proposal. The completed ESF will be submitted to the NPS by ODNR.

Name of LWCF Proposal:

Prior LWCF Project Number(s) *List all prior LWCF project numbers and all park names associated with assisted site(s):*

Local Project Sponsoring Agency:

Local Sponsor Contact:

Name/Title:

Office/Address:

Phone/Fax:

Email:

Summary of Previous Environmental Review (including E.O. 12372 - Intergovernmental Review)

To avoid duplication of effort and unnecessary delays, describe any prior environmental review undertaken at any time and still viable for this proposal or related efforts that could be useful for understanding potential environmental impacts. Consider previous local, state, federal (e.g. HUD, EPA, USFWS, FHWA, ODOT) and any other environmental reviews. At a minimum, address the following:

1. Date of environmental review(s), purpose for the environmental review(s) and for whom they were conducted.
2. Description of the proposed action and alternatives.
3. Who was involved in identifying resource impact issues and developing the proposal including the interested and affected public, government agencies, and Indian tribes.
4. Environmental resources analyzed and determination of impacts for proposed actions and alternatives.
5. Any mitigation measures to be part of the proposed action.
6. Public comment periods (how long, when in the process, who was invited to comment) and agency response.
7. Any formal decision and supporting reasons regarding degree of potential impacts to the human environment.
8. Was this proposed LWCF federal action and/or any other federal actions analyzed/reviewed in any of the previous environmental reviews? If so, what was analyzed and what impacts were identified? Provide specific environmental review document references.

Use resource impact information generated during previous environmental reviews described above and from recently conducted site inspections to complete the Environmental Screening Form (ESF) Your ESF responses should indicate your proposal's potential for impacting each resource as determined in the previous environmental review(s), and include a reference to where the analysis can be found in an earlier environmental review document. If the previous environmental review documents contain proposed actions to mitigate impacts, briefly summarize the mitigation for each resource as appropriate. The appropriate references for previous environmental review document(s) must be documented on the ESF, and the actual document(s) along with this ESF must be included in the submission.

Environmental Screening Form (ESF)

This ESF is a working tool used to identify the level of environmental documentation which must accompany the proposal submission. By completing the ESF, the project sponsor is providing support for its recommendation that the proposal either:

1. meets criteria to be categorically excluded (CE) from further NEPA review and no additional environmental documentation is necessary; or
2. requires further analysis through an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS).

An ESF alone does not constitute adequate environmental documentation unless a CE is recommended. If an EA is required, the EA process and resulting documents must be included in the proposal submission. If an EIS may be required, the sponsor must request NPS guidance (through ODNR) on how to proceed.

The scope of the required environmental analysis will vary according to the type of LWCF proposal. Consult the LWCF Manual for guidance on defining the scope or extent of environmental analysis needed for your LWCF proposal. As early as possible in your planning process, consider how your proposal/project may have direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the human environment for your type of LWCF action so planners have an opportunity to design alternatives to lessen impacts on resources, if appropriate. When used as a planning tool in this way, the ESF responses may change as the proposal is revised until it is ready for submission for federal review. Initiating or completing environmental analysis after a decision has been made is contrary to both the spirit and letter of the law of the NEPA.

The ESF should be completed with input from resource experts and in consultation with relevant local, state, tribal and federal governments, as applicable. The interested and affected public should be notified of the proposal and be invited to participate in scoping out the proposal (see LWCF Manual Chapter 4). At a minimum, a site inspection of the affected area must be conducted by individuals who are familiar with the type of affected resources, possess the ability to identify potential resource impacts, and to know when to seek additional data when needed.

The completed ESF must justify the NEPA pathway that was followed: CE recommendation, production of an EA, or production of an EIS. The resource topics and issues identified on the ESF for this proposal must be presented and analyzed in an attached EA/EIS. Consult the LWCF Manual for further guidance on LWCF and NEPA.

The ESF contains two parts that must be completed:

Part A. Environmental Resources

Part B. Mandatory Criteria

Part A: For each environmental resource topic, choose an impact estimate level (none, negligible, minor, exceeds minor) that describes the degree of potential negative impact for each listed resource that may occur directly, indirectly and cumulatively as a result of federal approval of your proposal. For each impacted resource provide a brief explanation of how the resource might be affected, how the impact level was determined, and why the chosen impact level is appropriate. If an environmental review has already been conducted on your proposal and is still viable, include the citation including any planned mitigation for each applicable resource, and choose an impact level as mitigated. If the resource does not apply to your proposal, mark NA in the first column. Add any relevant resources (see A.24 on the ESF) if not included in the list.

Use a separate sheet to briefly clarify how each resource could be adversely impacted; any direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that may occur; and any additional data that still needs to be determined. Also explain any planned mitigation already addressed in previous environmental reviews.

Part B: This is a list of mandatory impact criteria that preclude the use of categorical exclusions. If you answer “yes” or “maybe” for any of the mandatory criteria, you must develop an EA or EIS regardless of your answers in Part A. Explain all “yes” and “maybe” answers on a separate sheet.

PART A. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES Indicate potential for adverse impacts. Use a separate sheet to clarify responses per instructions for Part A on page 9.	Not Applicable- Resource does not exist	No/Negligible Impacts- Exists but no or negligible impacts	Minor Impacts	Impacts Exceed Minor EA/EIS required	More Data Needed to Determine Degree of Impact EA/EIS required
1. Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.					
2. Air quality					
3. Sound (noise impacts)					
4. Water quality/quantity					
5. Stream flow characteristics					
6. Marine/estuarine					
7. Floodplains/wetlands					
8. Land use/ownership patterns; property values; community livability					
9. Circulation, transportation					
10. Plant/animal/fish species of special concern and habitat; state/federal listed or proposed for listing					
11. Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old growth forests, etc.					
12. Unique or important wildlife/ wildlife habitat					
13. Unique or important fish/habitat					
14. Introduce or promote invasive species (plant or animal)					
15. Recreation resources, land, parks, open space, conservation areas, rec. trails, facilities, services, opportunities, public access, etc. <i>Most conversions exceed minor impacts. See Step 3.B</i>					
16. Accessibility for populations with disabilities					
17. Overall aesthetics, special characteristics/features					
18. Historical/cultural resources, including landscapes, ethnographic, archeological, structures, etc. Attach SHPO/THPO determination.					
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure					
20. Minority and low-income populations					
21. Energy resources (geothermal, fossil fuels, etc.)					
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies					
23. Land/structures with history of contamination/hazardous materials even if remediated					
24. Other important environmental resources to address.					

PART B. MANDATORY CRITERIA If your LWCF proposal is approved, would it...	Yes	No	To be determined
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?			
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas.			
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?			
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?			
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?			
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?			
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office. (Attach SHPO/THPO Comments)			
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.			
9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?			
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?			
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?			
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?			

Environmental Reviewers

The following individual(s) provided input in the completion of the environmental screening form. List all reviewers including name, title, agency, field of expertise. Keep all environmental review records and data on this proposal in state compliance file for any future program review and/or audit. The ESF may be completed as part of a LWCF pre-award site inspection if conducted in time to contribute to the environmental review process for the proposal.

1.

2.

3.

The following individuals conducted a site inspection to verify field conditions.

List name of inspector(s), title, agency, and date(s) of inspection.

1.

2.

3.

LWCF applicant here: _____ Date _____

Recommended NEPA Pathway

First, consult the attached list of “Categorical Exclusions (CEs) for Which a Record is Needed.” If you find your action in the CE list **and** you have determined in Part A of the ESF that impacts will be minor or less for each applicable environmental resource on the ESF **and** you answered “no” to all of the “Mandatory Criteria” questions in Part B of the ESF, the proposal qualifies for a CE. Complete the following “LWCF Environmental Recommendations” box indicating the CE recommendation.

If you find your action in the CE list **and** you have determined in Part A of the ESF that impacts will be greater than minor or that more data is needed for any of the resources **and** you answered “no” to all of the “Mandatory Criteria” questions, your environmental review team may choose to do additional analysis to determine the context, duration, and intensity of the impacts of your project or may wish to revise the proposal to minimize impacts to meet the CE criteria. If impacts remain at the greater than minor level, the sponsor must prepare an EA for the proposal. Complete the following *NEPA Pathway Recommendation* box indicating the need for an EA.

If you do not find your action in the CE list, regardless of your answers, you must prepare an EA or EIS. Complete the following *NEPA Pathway Recommendation* box indicating the need for an EA or EIS.

NEPA Pathway Recommendation

*I certify that a site inspection was conducted for each site involved in this proposal and to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this LWCF Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form (ESF) is accurate based on available resource data. All resulting notes, reports and inspector signatures for this proposal are attached. On the basis of the environmental impact information for this LWCF proposal as documented in this LWCF ESF with which I am familiar, I **recommend** the following LWCF NEPA pathway:*

- This proposal qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE).
 - CE Item #:
 - Explanation:
- This proposal requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) which is attached and has been produced by the sponsor in accordance with the LWCF Program Manual.
- This proposal may require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). NPS guidance, through ODNR, is requested per the LWCF Program Manual.

Please provide the following information (typed or clearly printed)

Name:

Title:

Agency:

Sponsor Original Signature: _____ Date: _____

**National Environmental Policy Act
National Park Service-Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program
Categorical Exclusions for Which a Record is Needed**

Note: The following are the NEPA Categorical Exclusions approved for use with all NPS programs. Only the unshaded categories apply to LWCF proposals. Before selecting a categorical exclusion (CE), complete the ESF for the LWCF proposal to support the CE selection.

Actions related to development

- (C 1) Land acquisition within established park boundaries, if future anticipated uses would have no potential for environmental impact.
- (C 2) Land exchanges that will not lead to anticipated changes in the use of land and that have no potential for environmental impact.
- (C 3) Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds, and trails.
- (C 4) Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities, and grounds if the action falls under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.
- (C 5) Installation of *LWCF eligible* signs, displays, and kiosks.
- (C 6) Installation of navigation aids.
- (C 7) Experimental testing of short duration (no more than one season) of mass transit systems, and changes in operation of existing systems, that have no potential for environmental impact.
- (C 8) Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity, or appearance--for example, comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs and campfire circles.
- (C 9) Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, and repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists.
- (C 10) Changes in sanitary facilities operation resulting in no new environmental effects.
- (C 11) Installation of wells, comfort stations, and pit or vault toilets in areas of existing use and in developed areas.
- (C 12) Minor trail relocation or development of compatible trail networks on logging roads or other established routes.
- (C 13) Upgrading or adding new overhead utility facilities on existing poles, or on replacement poles that do not change existing pole line configurations.

(C 14) Issuance of rights-of-way for overhead utility lines to an individual building or well from an existing line where installation will not result in visual intrusion and will involve no clearance of vegetation other than for placement of poles.

(C 15) Issuance of rights-of-way for minor overhead utility lines not involving placement of poles or towers and not involving vegetation management or visual intrusion in an area administered by NPS.

(C 16) Installation of underground utilities in areas showing clear evidence of recent human disturbance or areas within an existing road prism or within an existing overhead utility right-of-way.

(C 17) Minor landscaping in areas showing clear evidence of recent human disturbance.

(C 18) Installation of fencing enclosures, exclosures, or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.

Actions related to visitor use

(D 1) Minor changes in amounts or types of visitor use for the purpose of ensuring visitor safety or resource protection in accordance with existing regulations.

(D 2) Minor changes in programs and regulations pertaining to visitor activities.

(D 3) Issuance of permits for demonstrations, gatherings, ceremonies, concerts, arts and crafts shows, and so forth, entailing only short-term or readily remediable environmental disturbance.

(D 4) Designation of trailside camping zones with minimal or no improvements.

E. Actions related to resource management and protection

(E 1) Archeological surveys and permits involving only surface collection or small-scale test excavations.

(E 2) Restoration of non-controversial (based on internal scoping requirements in section 2.6) native species into suitable habitats within their historic range.

(E 3) Removal of individual members of a non-threatened/endangered species or populations of pests and exotic plants that pose an imminent danger to visitors or an immediate threat to park resources.

(E 4) Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.

(E 5) Development of standards for, and identification, nomination, certification, and determination of, eligibility of properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the National Historic Landmark and National Natural Landmark Programs, and biosphere reserves.

(E 6) Non-destructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities (this is also a Departmental CE).

(E 7) Designation of environmental study areas and research natural areas, including those closed temporarily or permanently to the public, unless the potential for environmental (including socioeconomic) impact exists.

Actions related to grant programs

(F 1) Proposed actions essentially the same as those listed in paragraphs A-E above *not shaded in gray*.

(F 2) Grants for acquisition to areas that will continue in the same use or lower density use with no additional disturbance to the natural setting or type of use.

(F 3) Grants for replacement or renovation of facilities at their same location without altering the kind and amount of recreational, historical, or cultural resources of the area or the integrity of the existing setting.

(F 4) Grants for construction of facilities on lands acquired under a previous NPS or other federal grant, provided that the development is in accord with plans submitted with the acquisition grant, and that environmental documents have been completed on the impacts of the proposal funded by the original grant.

(F 5) Grants for the construction of new facilities within an existing park or recreation area, provided that the facilities will not:

(a) conflict with adjacent ownerships or land use, or cause a nuisance to adjacent owners or occupants, such as would happen if use were extended beyond daylight hours.

(b) introduce motorized recreation vehicles, including off-road vehicles, personal water craft, and snowmobiles.

(c) introduce active recreation pursuits into a passive recreation area.

(d) increase public use or introduce non-compatible uses to the extent of compromising the nature and character of the property or causing physical damage to it.

(e) add or alter access to the park from the surrounding area.

(F 6) Grants for the restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization, preservation, and reconstruction (or the authorization thereof) of properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, at their same location, and provided that such actions:

(a) will not alter the integrity of the property or its setting

(b) will not increase public use of the area to the extent of compromising the nature and character of the property.