accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the Act's implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, that there is little likelihood the project will encounter significant archaeological sites or buildings. It is of their opinion that the proposed work will not affect historic properties. Concerns have been addressed from contacted tribes. If there is a significant cultural resource discovery during construction, appropriate notice will be made by NRCS to the state Historic Preservation Officer. NRCS will take action as prescribed in NRCS General Manual 420, Part 401, to protect or recover any significant cultural resource during construction.

Alternatives

The preferred alternative is the most practical alternative to meet the purpose and needs of this action. Three alternatives were considered: (1) No Action, (2) Decommission the Structure, and (3) Structure Rehabilitation.

Consultation—Public Participation

Meetings were held with the project sponsors from March, August, October of 2001, and February, April, May, June, and July in 2002. On June 3, 2002 the sponsors held a public scoping meeting. In addition, letter requests for concerns and issues were sent to federal and state agencies, and organizations. Site reviews and tours for public officials and agency representatives were also conducted. All concerns and issues were addressed in the environmental assessment.

Conclusion

The environmental assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the human environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the rehabilitation of Chippewa Creek Watershed, Structure VIII–D.

Dated: August 20, 2002.

Kevin Brown,

State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 02–22860 Filed 9–9–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

West Fork Duck Creek, Structure 6 (Wolf Run Dam), Noble County, OH

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of a finding of no significant impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Part 1500); and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Rules (7 CFR Part 650); the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the rehabilitation of Floodwater Retarding Structure No. 6 (Wolf Run Lake Dam) in the West Fork Duck Creek Watershed, Noble County, Ohio.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Brown; State Conservationist; Natural Resources Conservation Service; 200 North High Street, Room 522, Columbus, Ohio 43215; telephone 614–255–2500.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national effects on the human environment. As a result of these findings, Kevin Brown, State Conservationist, has determined that the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement are not needed for this project.

The project purpose is flood prevention. The action includes the rehabilitation of one flood protection, water supply, and recreation dam. The Notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency; various Federal, state and local agencies; and interested parties. A limited number of copies of the FONSI are available to fill single copy requests at the above address. Basic data developed during the environmental assessment is on file and may be reviewed by contacting Kevin Brown.

No administrative action on implementation of the preferred alternative will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Kevin Brown,

State Conservationist.

Finding of No Significant Impact for the West Fork Duck Creek Watershed; Noble County, Ohio

Introduction

This undertaking is being planned and will be implemented under the authority of the emergency Watershed Protection Program (7CFR 624). This program was enacted by Section 216 of Public Law 81–516, Section 403 of Public Law 95–334 (Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978), and Section 382 of Public Law 104–127 (Title III of the 1996 Farm Bill). This action is being planned in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91–190, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). The policy and procedures of the Watershed Protection and flood Prevention Act, Public Law 83–566, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1000–1008) are also being utilized for the planning and implementation of this undertaking.

The rehabilitation of the W. Fork Duck Creek Watershed Structure 6 (Wolf Run Dam) is a federally assisted action. An environmental assessment was completed for the action and was conducted in consultation with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as other interested organizations and individuals. Data developed during the assessment is available for public review at the following location: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, 200 North High St., Rm. 522, Columbus, Ohio 43215–2478.

Preferred Alternative

The sponsors preferred alternative for the rehabilitation of Wolf Run Dam would be to upgrade the dam to meet state dam safety criteria for a high hazard dam (NRCS Class C and ODNR Class I). Rehabilitation would include widening of the auxiliary spillway to increase the storage-discharge capacity of the dam to safely pass the probable maximum precipitation event without overtopping the embankment. Accumulated sediment would be removed in one 3-acre section of the upper pool area

Effect of the Preferred Alternative

This alternative would fully meet the needs and desires of the sponsors and the public, and would greatly diminish the potential for dam failure and loss of life. The requirements to upgrade the dam to satisfy high hazard criteria would be met. This alternative would also include removal of accumulated sediment that would restore sediment storage capacity, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and improve recreational opportunities. Total cost of this alternative is estimated to be $370,000.00.

The 215 acre lake is owned and operated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and is located within the Wolf Run State Park. The rehabilitated structure will continue to provide flood control protection for approximately 300 people downstream in the villages of Belle Valley and Caldwell, Ohio. Numerous homes, businesses, roads, bridges, utilities, and 400 acres of cropland are located in the valley downstream. The lake also provides vital water supply for the surrounding communities and recreational opportunities for the region. It is expected that the lake water level would be temporarily lowered only in the 3-acre area planned sediment removal area above County Road 14. This would allow removal of sediment in a de-watered state. Temporary displacement of wildlife and aquatic species may occur during construction. Some loss of fish and less mobile species may occur during construction, when the water level is lowered to remove the sediment. The water level would be lowered very slowly to minimize impacts to the wildlife and aquatic species. In the long term, use of the area by wildlife and aquatic species should return to pre-construction levels. After the project is completed, the lake would be enhanced for both recreational users and fish and wildlife.

About 13 acres would be temporarily disturbed due to the construction of this

project. During the construction period the dam would be closed to the public. Other areas may be closed or restricted to accommodate construction activities. Park facilities may also be affected by temporary closure of roads.

The water quality use designations would remain the same. This action will have little or no effect on wetlands, rare, or threatened and endangered species, and prime or unique farmland. Air quality in the watershed will be essentially unaffected by the rehabilitation project. There will be brief, temporary increases in noise levels and pollution of air from dust and exhaust emissions, which are inherent in earth moving construction processes.

An environmental assessment was completed as part of the planning process. An inventory for cultural resources was completed as part of the environmental assessment. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has submitted written notification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the Act's implementing regulations, 36CFR 800, that there is little likelihood the project will encounter significant archaeological sites or buildings. It is of their opinion that the proposed work will not affect historic properties. Concerns have been addressed from contacted tribes. If there is a significant cultural resource discovery during construction, appropriate notice will be made by NRCS to the state Historic Preservation Officer. NRCS will take action as prescribed in NRCS General Manual 420, Part 401, to protect or recover any significant cultural resource during construction.

Alternatives

The preferred alternative is the most practical alternative to meet the purpose and needs of this action. Three alternatives were considered: (1) No Action, (2) Decommission the Structure, and (3) Structure Rehabilitation.

Consultation—Public Participation

Meetings were held with the project sponsors in April, May, and September of 2001, and February, April, and May 2002. On May 14, 2001, and May 13, 2002, the sponsors held public meetings. In addition, letter requests for concerns and issues were sent to federal and state agencies, and organizations. All concerns and issues were addressed in the environmental assessment.

Conclusion

The environmental assessment summarized above indicates that this Federal action will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the human environment. Therefore, based on the above findings, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the rehabilitation of the W. Fork Duck Creek Watershed Structure 6 (Wolf Run Dam)

Dated: August 20, 2002.

Kevin Brown,
State Conservationist.

[FR Doc. 02–22859 Filed 9–9–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Changes to Section IV, Standards and Specifications, of the State Technical Guides of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the State of California

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in Section IV of the California State Technical Guides. NRCS is seeking review and comments to proposed changes.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 343 of Subtitle E of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIRA) that requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide public notice and comment under Section 553 of Title 5, United States Code, with regard to any future revisions to the provisions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Guides that are used to carry out Subtitles A, B, and C of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.3801 *et seq.*), the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, gives notice of proposed revisions to selected conservation practice standards in Section IV of the State Technical Guides in California.

These proposed revisions are subject to these provisions since one or more practices are used, or could be used, as a part of a conservation management system to comply with the Highly Erodible Land Conservation or Wetland Conservation requirements of the Food Security Act of 1985. These practice standards are also used to plan, design and implement conservation practices cost shared under USDA programs.

Revisions are being proposed for the following practice standards: Closure of Waste Impoundment (360); Conservation Crop Rotation (328); Conservation Cover (327); Contour Farming (330); Contour Stripcropping (585); Cover Crop (340); Grassed Waterway (412); Irrigation System, microirrigation (441); Alley Cropping (311); Constructed Wetland (656); Firebreak (394); Forest Site Preparation (490); Forest Stand Improvement (666); Forest Trails and Landings (655); Heavy Use Area Protection (561); Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447); Pipeline (516); Prescribed Burning (338); Riparian Forest Buffer (391); Spring Development (574); Tree/Shrub Establishment (612); Tree/Shrub Pruning (660); Use Exclusion (472); Watering Facility (614); Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380); Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650); PAM Erosion Control (450); Composting Facility (317); Deep Tillage (324); Fish Passage (396); Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land (543); Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land (544); Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395); Underground Outlet (620); Vegetative Barrier (601); Access Road (560); Diversion (362); Drainage Water Management (554); Fish Pond Management (399); Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603); Irrigation Land Leveling (464); Pond Sealing or Lining-Bentonite Sealant (521C); Pond Sealing or Lining-Soil Dispersant (521B); Roof Runoff Structure (558); Surface Roughening (609); Waste Utilization (633); Dam, Diversion (348); Hedgerow Planting (422); Obstruction Removal (500); Prescribed Grazing (528A); Wastewater Treatment Strip (635); Water and Sediment Control Basin (638); Nutrient Management (590); Mulching (484); Recreation Area Improvement (562); Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643); Brush Management (314); and Runoff Management System (570).

DATES: Comments will be received for a period of 30 days following the publication date of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane B. Holcomb, State Resource Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 430 G Street, Davis, California 95616–4164. Telephone: (530) 792–5667, FAX: (530) 792–5793, or e-mail *diane.holcomb@ca.usda.gov.*

Copies of these proposed standards can be obtained on the Web at *http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/rts/rts.html,* or will be made available upon written request. You may submit written comments to the address above. You may submit your electronic requests and comments to: *diane.holcomb@ca.usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In California, ''State Technical Guides'' refers to the State Office Technical Guide maintained by the NRCS State Resource Conservationist in Davis, California, to the Area Technical Guides maintained at each NRCS Area Office in Red Bluff, Salinas, Fresno and Riverside, California, and to the Field Office Technical Guides maintained at each NRCS Field Office in California.

Practice standards establish the minimum level of acceptable quality for planning, designing, installing,