

## Appendix 4 ***Technical Checklist Procedures***

These procedures may be used for classifications or reclassifications pursuant to the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 or in support of water service contracting, when the total acres for classification or reclassification are 500 or less. Lands may be classified either as arable (A) or non-arable (class 6) by use of the technical checklist.

The technical checklist, where it may be used, serves as the official reporting and approval document for land classification determinations. Official land classification and irrigable area maps should be revised accordingly to reflect the land classification or reclassification actions documented by technical checklist. A brief letter of transmittal should be used to summarize and transmit the findings and conclusions of technical checklist land classifications to the water user=s organization.

Regional Directors have the authority to approve technical checklist land classifications.

### **Checklist for Land Classification Requests of Less Than or Equal to 500 Acres for Operating Projects**

This checklist procedure may be used to classify or reclassify parcels of land as requested by water user contractors pursuant to Section 8 of the Reclamation Act of 1939. The checklist procedure is designed for use by a qualified Soil Scientist (equivalent to a GS-7 grade or higher) or by a Soil Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the classification/reclassification of relatively small parcels of land. Other professional disciplines that provide an understanding of soils, crops, irrigation, and drainage would also be qualified to use the checklist. Examples of such disciplines could include Agronomist, Natural Resource Specialist, and Agricultural Engineer. Please note that parcels of less than 10 acres may be subject to Reclamation policy for delivery of irrigation water to small tracts (contact the Office of Program and Policy Services, D-5000).

This checklist, along with a map that documents the classification and the acreages of arable and non-arable land, should be used to update the official project irrigable area sheets and land classification maps and records.

Any questions on the use of this checklist should be directed to the Land Suitability and Water Quality Group, Technical Service Center, Denver (Attention D-8570, telephone 303-445-2453).

**PARCEL IDENTIFICATION (note legal description of parcel and ownership):**

---

(only one checklist form should be used per parcel)

1. Has there been a classification or reclassification action completed at the request of the water user organization/contractor within the past 5 years?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no (If yes, go to 9)

2. Does the total acreage of the classification/reclassification request exceed 500 acres?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no (If yes, go to 9)

3. Has this parcel been irrigated for at least 5 continuous years?

\_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no (If yes, go to 4; if no, go to 5)

4. What is the acreage of this parcel?

\_\_\_\_\_ acres

(If less than **or = to** 160, go to 6; if greater than 160, go to 9)

5. What is the acreage of this parcel?

\_\_\_\_\_ acres

(If less than **or = to** 40, go to 6; if greater than 40, go to 9)

6. If the NRCS Land Capability Class is I or II, or the Storey index rating is 60 or greater (whichever class or rating is available) for this parcel, it may be designated as arable; go to 10. (If the Capability Class is higher or Storey index rating is lower, or neither are available, go to 7.)

7. Based on onsite field investigations/observations and the NRCS soil survey, will irrigation or continued irrigation of this parcel likely result in the following impacts on the parcel or the surrounding lands?

- a. Sediment deposition or erosion \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no
- b. Water table in the root zone \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no
- c. Excess runoff \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no
- d. Salinization \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

e. Problematic concentrations of constituents in irrigation return flows \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

f. Other concerns (identify)\_\_\_\_\_

(If any of the answers to 7a through 7e is yes or other concerns are noted, go to 9.)

8a. If the parcel is irrigated (5 continuous years), answer the following question. How do crop yields reported on this parcel compare with yields reported on arable lands within the district? \_\_\_\_\_equal to or greater; \_\_\_\_\_less; \_\_\_\_\_ unknown (If equal to or greater, go to 10; otherwise go to 8b)

8 b. If the parcel is undeveloped, has less than a 5-year history of irrigation, or the answer to 8a is A less@ or A unknown,@ are the predicted yields for the soils (from the NRCS soil survey) consistent with yields reported on the arable lands within the District? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no (If yes, go to 10; if no, go to 9)

9. Classification/Reclassification of this parcel will require consultation with Regional Soil Scientist or the Land Suitability and Water Quality Group, Technical Service Center, Denver (D-8570, telephone 303-445-2453)

10. Based upon information obtained in this checklist, and supported by attachments (provide list of references and/or any supporting materials), this parcel is determined to contain \_\_\_\_\_ arable acres and \_\_\_\_\_ non-arable acres as documented on the attached map.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Title)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Director