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January 21, 2011

CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 107

SUBJECT: Issue New and Revised Documents to the Field Office Technical Guide Sections II, III, and IV.

Purposes:

1. Notify users of a weblink to the Ecological Site Information System (ESIS) providing access to the available Ecological Site Descriptions.
2. To issue Conservation Activity Plan Technical criteria.
3. To issue revised California and California Interim conservation practice standards and specifications, and update the Index of Conservation Practice Standards.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section II: The following Web Reference Link was added to access available Ecological Site Descriptions:

<http://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/Welcome/pgESDWelcome.aspx>

Section III: The following Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) technical criteria are being issued:

Code	Practice/Activity Plan Name	Technical Criteria
104	Nutrient Management Plan	•
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan	•
122	Agricultural Energy Management Plan, Headquarters	•
126	Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan	•
134	Transition from Irrigated to Dryland Farming or Ranching Plan	•
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition	•
150	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan	•

Conservation Activity Plans are a type of conservation plan focused on a specific resource area. The plans are intended to be completed by Technical Service Providers. The technical criteria provide the technical requirements and deliverables for completing the Conservation Activity Plan. Several new CAPs are being offered in FY2011 (104, 118, 126, 134, 138, and 150). AgEMP plans were split into Headquarters (122) and Landscape (124) level plans. CA will continue to offer the Headquarters Level plans. These are posted in Section III of eFOTG.

Section IV: The following California Approved Conservation Practice Standards and specifications have been added or revised to Section IV of eFOTG:

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
314A	Brush Management – Juniper Control		•			
316	Animal Mortality Facility	•		•		•
574	Spring Development	•				
587	Structure for Water Control	•				
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	•				
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	•				
655	Forest Trails and Landings	•	•			
657	Wetland Restoration	•				
658	Wetland Creation	•				
659	Wetland Enhancement	•				

Brush Management – Juniper Control (314A) - Provides clarification on biomass treatment parameters and improvements to some of the language.

Animal Mortality Facility (Code 316) – Nationally, this standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. Design criteria were changed, based on the revision of practice code 367 – Roofs and Covers. Disposal pits (masonry, treated timber, and pre-cast concrete structures constructed in the ground with the bottom of the pit exposed to the soil) have been omitted from the standard since most State regulations no longer allow these types of structures, and they are not considered environmentally friendly. California also added Mobile Slaughter Units.

Spring Development (Code 574) – Added requirement to assess spring habitat using the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Guide. A variance was approved by NHQ for California to waive the requirement to do a wetland determination. Permit considerations were added.

Structure for Water Control (Code 587) – Reverse Osmosis has been added to this Practice Standard. Reverse Osmosis is used to removed salts from water from any source. The by-product is a salty slush, for which an evaporation pond will be required.

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) – Nationally, this standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. No specific public comments were incorporated. The date of the standard was changed. Added Mosquito Control issues into the Reference section.

Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646) – Nationally, this standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. No specific public comments were incorporated. The date of the standard was changed. Use of the practice on fallow or post harvest fields for shorebird habitat was added to the Conditions Where Practice Applies section.

Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655) – The changes made to the document include the addition of an important Criteria on the re-use of trails in future management activities “designated skid trails” and additional clarification of environmental mitigation measures. This is a key practice for forestry so that trails and landings are designed properly to minimize erosion.

Wetland Restoration (Code 657) – Nationally, this standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The definition of this practice standard was modified to ensure its clear differentiation from the wetland enhancement practice; functional assessments or equivalent were added in criteria; hydrology considerations were added; considerations were reorganized into topics (hydrology, vegetation, and soils) to make the practice easier to use and understand; references were added. Criteria were added for the use of “Pond and Plug” wet meadow restoration techniques.

Wetland Creation (Code 658) – Nationally, this standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The Considerations were reorganized into topics (hydrology, vegetation, and soils) to make the practice easier to use and understand. References were added.

Wetland Enhancement (Code 659) - This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The definition of this practice standard was changed to ensure its clear differentiation from the wetland restoration practice; hydrology considerations were added; Considerations were reorganized into topics (hydrology, vegetation, and soils) to make the practice easier to use and understand; and references were added.

The California eFOTG, located on the web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/> and in my.nrcs at <https://my.nrcs.usda.gov/default.aspx>, is being updated to reflect these changes to Sections III and IV.

Optional Filing Instructions (for copies of FOTG maintained in Field Offices)

Replace the “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated October 13, 2010, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Alphabetical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated January 21, 2011.

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated October 13, 2010, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-11, dated January 21, 2011.

Remove the old practice standards, specifications, practice requirements, and Statements of Work and insert the new practice standards and documents issued above in Section IV. Insert the new CAP Technical Criteria in Section III.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane B. Holcomb".

DIANE B. HOLCOMB
State Resource Conservationist

ATTACHMENTS: (electronic) (Copies will be posted to the California eFOTG.)

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