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May 31, 2012

CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 112

SUBJECT: Issue New and Revised Documents to the Field Office Technical Guide Sections I & IV.

Purposes:

1. To announce posting of two Technical Notes.
2. To issue new and revised California conservation practice standards and specifications, and update the Index of Conservation Practice Standards.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section I: The following Technical Notes have been posted:

- California Pollinator Plants: Native Milkweeds (Biology TN 21)
- Assessing Special Environmental Concerns (Biology TN 22)

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

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
560	Access Road	•	•	•	•	•
314	Brush Management 314A- Brush Mgmt, Juniper Control	•	•	• •	----	•
656	Constructed Wetland	•		----	•	•
324	Deep Tillage	•				•
382	Fence 382A – Barbed, Smooth or Woven Wire 382B – Suspension 382C – Electrical 382D – Wildlife Friendly	•	• • • JS	•	----	•

Code	Practice Name	Std	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
734	Fish and Wildlife Structure (Interim) Wildlife Brush and Rock Piles Nest Structures, Complex Nesting/Loafing Levees and Islands		JS JS JS	----		
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	•	•	•	----	•
315	Herbaceous Weed Control 315A-Mechanical 315B-Biological 315C-Chemical			• • •		
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	•	JS	----	----	•
550	Range Planting 550A-Range Planting, Annual Plant Species 550B-Range Planting, Perennial Plant Species	•	• •	•		•
646	Shallow Water Development and Mgmt		JS			
395	Stream Habitat Improvement & Mgmt	•			•	•
609	Surface Roughening	•	JS	----	----	•
601	Vegetative Barriers	•	JS	----	----	•

Narrative Summary of Changes to Standards

Access Road (Code 560).—This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. Criteria were added to locate away from bodies of water. Overland flow is also to be avoided.

Brush Management (Code 314): Substantial changes are proposed to this practice standard. Prescribed Burning is removed as a brush management treatment. Only chemical, mechanical and biological treatments are included. Prescribed burning for brush management purposes is covered in the Prescribed Burning (Code 338) standard. In the Purpose Section, wildfire hazard reduction has changed to be more comprehensive. In the Criteria Section, use of Ecological Site Descriptions has been added as a requirement. Further, the Criteria Section was enhanced to specifically address wildlife concerns. The Plans and Specifications Section has been expanded to include requirements for monitoring.

Constructed Wetland (Code 656).—This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. An additional consideration for selecting plant materials that provide habitat requirements for desirable wildlife and enhancing pollinator habitat is included in the standard.

Fence (Code 382).—This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. No changes were made. The date of the standard was changed. California updated their Specifications for various types of fence.

Fish and Wildlife Structure (Code-734) – Three Job Sheets were added.

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Code 548).—This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. The “Criteria” section changed, referring to and adding prescribed grazing following treatment. Considerations were expanded and references were added.

Herbaceous Weed Control (Code-315) – Specifications / Practice Requirements added

Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Code 603) - This revision adds considerations for: beneficial insects and pollinators; and sequestering of carbon, native plant materials, invasive species, and micro-environment for plant growth. Also, this revision moves “food and cover for wildlife” from the “Purpose” section to “Considerations,” adds “tolerance to soil deposition” as a criterion under “Vegetation,” expands “Conditions where Practice Applies” to include lands where forages are grown, removes instruction statements for preparation of State standards, adds requirements in “Plans and Specifications,” and updates barrier criteria to include the most current technology and references.

Range Planting (Code 550) – Revisions incorporates Ecological Site Description use for planning purposes and updates the reference section. Minor changes in wording occur throughout the standard.

Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646).— This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. No changes were incorporated to the Standard. California added a Job Sheet.

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395).— This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. “Stream Visual Assessment Protocol” was changed to “Stream Visual Assessment Protocol, Version 2.” The “Considerations” section was changed, monitoring guidelines for evaluating the effectiveness of the conservation actions were added, and post-project monitoring was added to “Operation and Maintenance” section.

Surface Roughening (Code 609).—No significant technical changes are proposed to this practice standard; however significant edits and grammatical changes have been made. The Purposes Section has been edited for clarity and as a result the number of purposes has been reduced. However, the intent of the edits was not to exclude previous purposes, just merge existing ones into more clearly worded statements. In the Criteria Section, procedure type narratives were removed. In the Considerations Section, additional considerations were added to address emergency tillage, the initial tillage operation, and the direction of tillage.

Vegetative Barrier (Code 601).—The primary revision included the addition to use the RUSLE2 for the design and spacing of the vegetative barriers. Other revisions included edits to improve clarity.

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 I and IV. Previous document versions will be moved to the Archived folder.

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

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-8, dated March 30, 2012, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated May 31, 2012.

Remove the old practice standards, specifications, practice requirements, operation and maintenance, and statements of work and insert the new practice standards and documents issued above in Section IV.



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

DIST: O