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November 13, 2013

CALIFORNIA TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 119

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

Purposes:

1. Issue Range Technical Note CA-56 to Section I
2. Issue Planning Criteria to Section III
3. Issue Updates to Standards in Section IV
4. Issue FY14 CPPE in Section V and on-line in “SmarTech” database

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section I: A Technical Note “Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health” has been posted to Section I > Technical Notes > Range > Range Technical Note 56.

Section III: The Quality Criteria has been replaced by Planning Criteria that identifies the Assessment Tools available for each Resource Concern. Quick visual assessments can be done to Screen whether a Resource Concern exists. If it does, then the Assessment Criteria identifies the treatment level or measurements and tools needed to sufficiently and practically treat the Resource Concern.

Section V: The Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) database has been updated. It is found online in the “SmarTech” database at the following website which requires eAuthentication for viewing: <https://cppe.sc.egov.usda.gov/> . A spreadsheet version is also posted in Section V of the eFOTG > Effects for Decision Making > 1. Conservation Practice Physical Effects. It can be printed on 36x48” (Arch E size) paper using “Fit to Page”.

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

Code	Practice Name	Std	Info	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
372	Combustion System Improvement			•	•		

Code	Practice Name	Std	Info	Spec	PR	O&M	SOW
340	Cover Crop <i>National Cover Crop Termination Guidelines</i>	• •					
382	Fence <i>382A-Barbed/Smooth/Woven</i> <i>382C-Electric</i>			• •	•		
338	Prescribed Burning	•					•
528	Prescribed Grazing <i>528E-Forest & Woodland</i>			•			
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	•					•

Narrative Summary of Changes to Standards

Combustion System Improvement (Code 372) – Specs and Practice Requirements were modified to include requirements to collect data that can count towards the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). Specs edited to include ways to verify ownership since the practices is not land-based. Also added ways to verify use of the old equipment being replaced.

Cover Crop (Code 340) – Criteria edited to add termination period requirements for non-irrigated cropland. Also posted in the 340 folder is the national guidance document, *NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines: Non-irrigated Cropland*

Fence (Code 382) – New Specifications for Barbed/Smooth/Woven (382A) Fence. New Specifications and Practice Requirements for Electric/Permanent Power Fence (382C).

Prescribed Burning (Code 338) – Updated Standard. Note NRCS involvement is limited to discussing benefits of prescribed burning with clients, but the burn plan and implementation of a fire will be done by other agencies/partners.

Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) – New specification for grazing on forest and woodland.

Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391) – Significant overhaul of the Standard. The focus has been broadened beyond the focus on wildlife habitat.

Location of Documents

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. Previous document versions will be moved to the Archived folders.

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

Place the Range Technical Note into Binder with other Technical Notes, Section I.

Remove the “Quality Criteria” and replace with the “Planning Criteria” in Section III.

Replace “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications Index – Numerical Index” contents, pages 1-8, dated August 15, 2013, with the new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, Numerical Order” contents, pages 1-8, dated November 13, 2013.

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.

The Log of Technical Guide Notices (Section I) has been updated.



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

DIST: O