



August 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA NRCS TECHNICAL GUIDE 450-VI

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 131

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

Purposes:

1. Issue Technical Notes to Section I
2. Conservation Planning on Your Land Workbooks (link) – Section III.
3. Issue updates to Conservation Practice Documents in Section IV.

Effective Date: When contents are received.

Explanation:

Section I: Technical Notes

- TN-Plant Materials-CA-84: Pure Live Seed, Bulk Seeding Rate Calculator
- TN-Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)-CA-05: Restoring California Black Oak Ecosystems to Promote Tribal Values and Wildlife.
- Re-organized the “Cultural Resources” Technical Notes into the TEK TN’s.

Section III: “Conservation Planning on Your Land” Workbooks for Crop, Pasture, Range and Forest are posted on the CA Website. A posting has been made on the eFOTG with an introduction and links to the CA Website to access the Workbooks.

Section IV: The following California-approved Conservation Practice Documents (CPD) have been revised or added. (listed alphabetically)

Code	Practice Name	Std (CPS)	Spec	IR	O&M	SOW
316	Animal Mortality Facility	•		•	•	•
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	•	•	•	•	•
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	•		•		•
331	Contour Orchard and other Perennial Crops	•		•		•
666	Forest Stand Improvement	•		•		•
	666A – Coastal Douglas Fir / Redwood		•			
	666B – Ponderosa Pine / Jeffrey Pine / Sierra Nevada Mixed Conifer		•			
	666C – Aspen / Cottonwood / Other		•			
666D – Competing Vegetation Control		•				
603	Herbaceous Wind Barrier	•		•		•
607	Surface Drain, Field Ditch	•	•	•	•	•

608	Surface Drain, Main or Lateral	•	•	•	•	•
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	•			•	•
601	Vegetative Barrier	•				•
630	Vertical Drain	•			•	•
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt 644C - Cropland – Seasonal Flooding with Gradual Drawdown 644D - Cropland – Forage Management for Waterbirds		•			
			•			

Narrative Summary of Changes to Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) and Documents

Animal Mortality Facility (Code 316) - Criteria for catastrophic animal mortality has been removed and placed in new standard Emergency Animal Mortality Management (368). The information provided on composting has been expanded. Language was changed to improve the readability of the standard.

Channel Bed Stabilization (Code 584) - The proposed changes provide additional clarification regarding the conditions where the practice applies, general criteria, considerations, and technical references.

Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328) - Changed definition slightly from “Growing crops in a planned sequence on the same field” to “A planned sequence of crops grown on the same ground over a period of time (i.e., the rotation).”

Contour Orchards and Other Perennial Crops (Code 331) - Removed wind erosion as one of the purposes and the technology addresses only sheet and rill erosion from water. Provided edits to the purposes to align with the NRCS list of natural resource concerns. Added the criteria for additional temporary erosion control measures on sites that are disturbed. Reduced the allowable contour row grade from 10% to 4%. Added criteria for inward sloping benches to improve sediment trapping on the slopes. Added minor edits throughout the standard to improve clarity.

Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666) - The agency added new language to the definition: “...to achieve a desired future condition or obtain ecosystem services.” Purposes that refer to forest products, renewable energy systems and aesthetics and recreation are moved to “Considerations” because they are not primary purposes for this practice. NRCS changed “Conditions where Practice Applies” from “All Forest land”, with exceptions for some agroforestry practices to “All land where the quantity and quality of trees can be enhanced.” Under “General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes” NRCS changed the emphasis from silvicultural systems to achieving desired future conditions by altering the species composition or tree density. “Additional Criteria to Improve and Sustain Forest Health and Productivity” are added. Several new “Considerations” were added including descriptions of silvicultural and carbon sequestration options. Several new references were added.

Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Code 603) - The purpose and criteria to enhance snow deposition was removed because the vegetation during the winter period is not conducive to uniform snow deposition. Minor edits were made throughout the standard to improve clarity. Increased the criteria for barrier height for wind erosion period to 1.5 feet from 0.5 feet.

Surface Drain, Field Ditch (Code 607) – The agency changed the definition for clarity, along with a purpose and criteria added to allow use of this practice to collect irrigation tailwater for reuse.

Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (Code 608) – The agency removed the reference to the ambiguous phrase ‘water management system’ in the purpose to improve clarity. Criteria was added allowing the use of this practice as a component to collect irrigation tailwater, for use in a Tailwater Recovery System, (Code 447) along with a reference to the two-stage channel design process in NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 654.1005 in areas where increased channel stability is required. In addition, the minimum berm top with criteria has been added. Standard is in the new one-column format.

Vegetated Treatment Area (Code 635) - This standard was edited to improve clarity. Additionally criteria was added to address pretreatment and erosion control measures and remove minimum flow length which affected design of small facilities.

Vegetative Barrier (Code 601) - The purpose and the criteria to use the vegetative barrier to control concentrated flow erosion was removed due to poor performance. Added minor edits throughout the standard to improve clarity.

Vertical Drain (Code 630) – The agency incorporated plain language into this practice standard by adding verbiage to address potential negative effects on underground habitat, in conditions

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) – Posted two specifications (644C and 644D). They have been in use for up to a year, but just had not been posted on eFOTG.

Location of Documents

The California eFOTG, located on the web at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx is being updated to reflect these changes to Sections I, III, & IV. Previous document versions will be moved to the archived folders.

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

The new “Index of Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications”, pages 1-8, dated August 17, 2016, (found in Section IV) replaces the index dated May 6, 2016. Found in Section IV.

If keeping hard copy files, Replace old documents with the new, as described in this Technical Guide Notice.

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ATTACHMENTS: (copies sent by request) (Copies will be posted to the California eFOTG.)

DIST: AE