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**BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. CA-20
190-VI**

SUBJECT: ECS – BIOLOGY- *Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guides for California*

Purpose: Transmit the Assessment Tool – Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guides (WHAG)

Effective Date: When contents are received.

The Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guides (WHAG) provide the NRCS planner with a relatively simple and objective procedure for determining the value of wildlife habitat on any Conservation Treatment Unit (CTU), which may consist of one or more fields or even an entire farm. The guides can be used on land where wildlife is a primary resource concern, or on land (such as farmland) where wildlife is a secondary resource concern. They can be used to evaluate habitat on planning units for rangeland, farmland, forest and woodland, or conservation planning units for wildlife.

These Guides can be used to determine if a CTU meets the minimum quality criteria found in Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section III, Plants and/or Animals. Conservation practices and management measures can be identified to meet the minimum RMS standard, or to meet higher habitat quality objectives of the landowner.

Filing Instructions: The attached Technical Note and new Index of Biology Technical Notes will be filed electronically in the California eFOTG under the folder hierarchy: Section I, Technical Notes, Biology. <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx> (Click on California, then any County).

Field offices may also optionally file hard copies in the three-ring binder with other Biology Technical Notes, located in field offices. Replace the old Index sheets with the new Index.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane B. Holcomb".

DIANE B. HOLCOMB
State Resource Conservationist

ATTACHMENTS: Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide, Biology Technical Notes Index

