



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 691

MAY 19, 2015

Re: Transmit revised Soil Survey Area Maps, revised WHEG's, new ESIS and ESD guidance, revised Colorado Natural Areas designations, revised ESA Predictability for GrSG, and new and revised Agronomy Standards, Statements of Work and Implementation Requirements Worksheets

This Technical Guide Notice transmits the following materials to the Colorado electronic Field Office Technical Guide ([eFOTG](#)).

Section I, Air Quality

[National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool](#) – New

[National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool User's Manual](#) – New

[National Instruction NI-190-309, National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool](#) - New

Section I, Erosion Prediction

[Colorado RUSLE2 R-modified \(Rmod\) Climate \(Snowmelt\) Areas for Annual Crops](#) – Distributed at FO training for use with RUSLE2 in Dolores, Garfield, La Plata, Moffat, Montezuma, Rio Blanco and Routt Counties

Section I, Maps, General

[Colorado 2015 Digital Soil Survey Status](#) – Revised

[Colorado Soil Survey Area Legend](#) – Revised

[Colorado Soil Survey Area Status](#) - Revised

Section I, Technical Notes, Biology

[WHEG, Greater Sage Grouse \(threats checklist\)](#). Revised. Includes a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) for Mesic sites and Xeric sites, and a Threats Checklist.

[WHEG, Gunnison Sage Grouse \(threats checklist\)](#). Revised. Includes a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) for Mesic sites and Xeric sites, and a Threats Checklist. Jointly developed for Colorado and Utah.

[WHEG, Lesser Prairie Chicken \(threats checklist\)](#). Revised. Includes a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) for sand sagebrush and grassland habitat, and a Threats Checklist. Regionally developed with Colorado modification for state-specific habitat requirements.

[WHEG, SW Willow Flycatcher](#). Revised. Includes a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) for low and high elevation riparian. Regionally developed.

Section II, Ecological Site Descriptions

[Ecological Site Inventory System \(ESIS\) Instructions](#) – New

[Introduction to Ecological Site Descriptions](#) – New

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, Natural Areas

[Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Natural Areas](#). Revised February 2015. Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) designated areas.

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, T&E, ESA Predictability (WLFW)

[WLFW/ESA Predictability Handout GrSG](#). Revised. NRCS recently teamed up with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop collaborative outreach materials that clearly compare the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) and the Candidate Conservation Program with Assurances (CCAA). Please use this version in all related SGI outreach.

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, T&E, ESA Consultation

[SWFL Biological Opinion Map](#). New. 2015 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Biological Opinion map for Colorado, identifying the Action Area and Focus Areas.

Section IV, Standards and Specifications

[Conservation Cover 327 Standard](#) – Revised per NHCP Notice 160 to delete purpose to manage pests, to add “beneficial organism habitat” to pollinator purpose, and add reference National Agronomy Technical Note 9

[Conservation Cover 327 Statement of Work](#) - Revised

[Conservation Cover 327 Implementation Requirements Worksheet](#) - New

[Conservation Crop Rotation 328 Standard](#) - Revised per NHCP Notice 160 to delete 2 energy purposes, and to diminish soil health planning criteria

[Conservation Crop Rotation 328 Statement of Work](#) - Revised

[Conservation Crop Rotation 328 Implementation Requirements Worksheet](#) – New to replace 328 Job Sheet

[Contour Buffer Strips 332 Standard](#) – Revised per NHCP Notice 160 to add purpose to decrease water quality degradation by nutrient transport downslope

[Contour Buffer Strips 332 Statement of Work](#) - Revised

[Contour Buffer Strips 332 Implementation Requirements Worksheet](#) – New to replace 332 Job Sheet

[Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C Standard](#) – Revised per NHCP Notice 160 to delete purpose to induce wind-borne sediment deposition

[Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C Statement of Work](#) - Revised

[Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C Implementation Requirements Worksheet](#) – New to replace 589C Job Sheet

[Surface Roughening 609 Standard](#) – Revised per NHCP Notice 160 to emphasize emergency tillage only and remove reference to WEQ “I” factor

[Surface Roughening 609 Statement of Work](#) - Revised

[Surface Roughening 609 Implementation Requirements Worksheet](#) – New to replace 609 Job Sheet

This Technical Guide Notice cancels the following documents and removes them from the Colorado eFOTG.

Section I, Technical Notes, Biology

WHEG, Greater Sage Grouse. Dated October 2010 is replaced by the revised form.

WHEG, Gunnison Sage Grouse. Dated April 2012 is replaced by the revised form.

WHEG, Lesser Prairie Chicken. Dated April 2010 is replaced by the revised form.

WHEG, SW Willow Flycatcher. Dated December 2013 is replaced by the revised form.

Section IV, Standards and Specifications

Conservation Cover 327 Standard, September 2011

Conservation Cover 327 Statement of Work, November 2007

Conservation Crop Rotation 328 Standard, September 2011

Conservation Crop Rotation 328 Statement of Work, September 2010

Conservation Crop Rotation 328 Job Sheet, September 2010

Contour Buffer Strips 332 Standard, September 2011

Contour Buffer Strips 332 Statement of Work, November 2007

Contour Buffer Strips 332 Job Sheet, April 2008

Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C Standard, September 2011

Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C Statement of Work

Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C Job Sheet, September 2010

Surface Roughening 609 Standard, September 2010

Surface Roughening 609 Statement of Work, September 2010

Surface Roughening 609 Job Sheet, September 2010

Archiving Standards

Conservation practice standards in effect at the time the client makes a decision regarding a course of action (step 7 of the Conservation Planning Process) may be used for practice implementation unless public health, safety or welfare is adversely affected. A copy of all superseded standards shall be retained in NRCS field office files or other locations as approved by the State Conservationist, until such standards are no longer relevant to any active conservation plan or contract, or for 10 years, whichever is longer. Where formal contracts (e.g., long-term agreements) are involved, copies of outdated standards are to be retained for the period required by the pertinent NRCS policy governing that specific program.

These archived standards need to be removed from the FOTG and retained in a separate file (GM-450, Part 401, Subpart B, 401.18). An archive of canceled Colorado Standards is maintained in the Ecological Sciences Section at the State office in Denver.

Printing and Filing Instructions

District Conservationists are not required to maintain a hard copy of the eFOTG in their respective field offices. One copy of the Colorado eFOTG is maintained at the National Information Technology Center (NITC) Web Farm at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?Map=CO.

Contact Information

Contact Rachel Murph, State Rangeland Management Specialist, at 720-544-2866 or rachel.murph@co.usda.gov for information regarding the Range content of this notice

Contact Chanda Pettie, State Biologist, at 720-544-2804 or chanda.pettie@co.usda.gov for information regarding the biology content of this notice.

Contact Jim Sharkoff, State Conservation Agronomist, at 720-544-2812 or jim.sharkoff@co.usda.gov, for information regarding the agronomy content of this notice.

Contact William Shoup, State Soil Scientist, at 720-544-2850 or william.shoup@co.usda.gov for information regarding the soils content of this notice.

This notice is filed in the Section I, Transmittals folder of the Colorado eFOTG. A [Section I Transmittals Index](#) is available in PDF format to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1998.

This is the only copy of this notice you will receive from the State office.

/s/ Leroy Hall, acting for

CLINT EVANS
State Conservationist

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