



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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COLORADO FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

March, 14 2016

TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE 697

Purpose. This notice transmits changes to the Colorado Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

Explanation of FOTG Changes:

Section I, Reference List, Riparian

[Proper Functioning Condition, Lotic](#). New. Technical Reference 1737-15, Second Edition, 2015. A methodology for assessing the physical functioning of perennial or intermittent lotic (flowing water) riparian systems.

[Proper Functioning Condition, Lotic, Field Form](#). New. Fillable field form.

Section I, Reference List, Wetland

[Proper Functioning Condition, Lentic](#). New. Technical Reference 1737-16, revised 2003. A methodology for assessing the physical functioning of riparian associated wetlands (still or very slow moving water).

Section I, Reference List, Wildlife

[Sage Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework](#). New. Technical Reference 6710-1, June 2015. A temporal and spatial method for evaluating sagebrush habitat for sage-grouse suitability at various landscape scales. Document is provided as a Bureau of Land Management web link. The web site includes the associated data forms.

[Pollinator Plants, Southern Plains](#). New. Informational handout by The Xerces Society.

[Rocky Mountain Avian Data Center](#). New. On this web map application, users can query bird monitoring density and occupancy estimates, and distribution maps.

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, Natural Areas

[National Natural Landmark Sites](#). New. When completing Environmental Evaluations (NRCS-CPA-52), NNLs should be considered as Special Environmental Concerns under "Natural Areas" when they could be affected by planned practices. NNL's may also be visual resources to be considered under Scenic Beauty and "unique characteristics of the geographic area" when making a Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances.

Explanation of FOTG Changes (cont.)

Section II, Special Environmental Concerns, Threatened & Endangered Species

[WLFW Partnership, Colorado Implementation Plan](#). Revised. Working Lands for Wildlife Partnership Colorado's Implementation Plan, updated for FY16. Item changed:

- All WLFW plans (financial and technical assistance) will use the Toolkit Species Reporting Tool to report the Practice Code, Identified Species, and Action (if applicable). This is regardless of ESA Predictability being relayed.

Section IV, Standards and Specifications

Policy reminder. Practice standards in effect at the time the client makes a decision regarding a course of action (NRCS planning process, step 7) may be used for practice implementation unless public health, safety or welfare is adversely affected; however, NRCS will encourage the use of the current standard unless there are compelling reasons to utilize the former (GM-450-401).

Irrigation Water Management (AC) (449)

- [Irrigation Water Management \(449\) Farm Irrigation Rating Index \(FIRI 2015.1\)](#). Revised.

Conservation Power Plant (716) Standard (3/09). Archived. Interim standard time period expired and standard not valid any longer.

Conservation Power Plant (716) Construction Specification (12/06). Archived.

Conservation Power Plant (716) Statement of Work (3/06). Archived.

Structure Sediment Removal (758) Interim Standard (6/13). Archived. Interim standard time period expired and standard not valid any longer.

Structure Sediment Removal (758) Interim Construction Specification (6/13). Archived.

This notice and each of the materials referenced can be accessed electronically through the Colorado Field Office Technical Guide at http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?Map=CO. Materials indicated to be archived will be maintained at the NRCS State office in Denver, Colorado for a period of 10 years or longer as required by policy.

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/s/

CLINT EVANS
State Conservationist

DIST: electronically to all Colorado NRCS employees and affiliates