

December 23, 2015

INDIANA FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IN-217

This notice transmits changes to the Indiana Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) as described below.

1. General changes applicable to all revised and new standards:
 - a. **Considerations** = the following statement has been added to each updated standard's Consideration section to clarify that considerations are optional whereas criteria are required
 - i. "The considerations section contains information that is optional to the planner".
2. The following Technical Notes have been added or revised and posted to Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) in the 'Technical Notes' folder:
 - a. **Agronomy Technical Note: Conservation Crop Rotations for Soil Quality and Soil Health (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits.
 - b. **Agronomy Technical Note: Gypsum Management (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits to reflect the permanent 333 standard.
 - c. **Biology Technical Note: Milkweed Assessment Tool (October 2015)** = new.
 - d. **Biology Technical Note: Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (October 2015)**
= added relative pollinator and monarch values.
 - e. **Forestry Technical Note: Direct Seeding of Trees and Shrubs (October 2015)** = added information on direct seeding of trees along with shrubs.
3. The following Conservation Activity Plans have been added or revised and posted to Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) in the 'Conservation Activity Plans' folder:
 - a. **102 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Criteria (August 2015 - national)** = updated to match new national CNMP policy including format, deliverables, and specific resource concerns now required to be identified and addressed as needed.

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- b. **104 Nutrient Management Plan Criteria (September 2015 - national)** = clarified that a narrative description of rate is acceptable only for precision rate applications.
 - c. **106 Forest Management Plan Criteria (September 2014 - national)** = minor edits.
 - d. **106 Guide for Foresters Joint Management Plan Template (September 2014 - national)** = minor edits.
 - e. **106 Guide for Landowners Joint Management Plan Template (September 2014 - national)** = minor edits.
 - f. **106 Managing Your Woodlands Joint Management Template (September 2014 - national)** = minor edits.
 - g. **128 Agricultural Energy Management Plan Criteria (August 2015 - national)** = minor edits.
 - h. **128 Agricultural Energy Management Plan Checklist (August 2015 - national)** = minor edits.
 - i. **138 Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition Plan Template (September 2014 - national)** = expanded all sections significantly and combined cropland and grazing land templates into a single template.
4. The following Planning Criteria tool has been updated to Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) in the 'Resource Concerns, Land Uses, and Planning Criteria' - > 'Planning Criteria' folder:
- a. **Indiana Planning Criteria Tools (October 2015)** = Soil Quality Degradation – Soil Organic Matter Depletion = conservation cropping systems added to the Assessment Level; Air Quality = all resource concerns – required to assess on Farmsteads with ≥ 300 animal units and National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool is listed as the assessment tool.
5. The following new standard(s) or documents have been added to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) with the following significant changes.
- a. **333 – Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products (October 2015)**
Changes: Name = revised from interim standard name; Code = new code and now a permanent standard instead of interim; Criteria = heavy metal restrictions.
 - b. **314 – Brush Management Job Sheet (October 2015)** = new.

- c. **314 – Brush Management Worksheet to Determine % Canopy Cover (October 2015)** = new.
 - d. **672 – Building Envelope Improvement Statement of Work (October 2015)** = new.
 - e. **647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management – General Interseeding Job Sheet (October 2015)** = new.
 - f. **647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management – Interseeding for Monarchs Job Sheet (October 2015)** = new.
 - g. **647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management – Strip Disking Job Sheet (October 2015)** = new.
 - h. **647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management – Strip Spraying Job Sheet (October 2015)** = new.
 - i. **368 – Emergency Animal Mortality Management (October 2015)** = new.
 - j. **374 – Farmstead Energy Improvement Statement of Work (October 2015)** = new.
 - k. **325 – High Tunnel System (October 2015)**
Changes: Code = new code and now a permanent standard instead of interim; Purposes = changed to only plant health and vigor; Criteria = covers must meet 4-year lifespan.
 - l. **670 – Lighting System Improvement Statement of Work (October 2015)** = new.
 - m. **381 – Silvopasture Establishment (October 2015)** = new.
 - n. **660 – Tree/Shrub Pruning Statement of Work (October 2015)** = new.
The Toolkit domain data will need updated to use these new FOTG codes.
6. The following standard(s) or documents have been deleted from Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) for the following reasons.
- a. **801 – Amending Soil Properties with Gypsiferous Products (October 2015)**
Reasons: became an official national standard (333) – no longer interim.
 - b. **798 – Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (October 2015)**
Reasons: became an official national standard (325) – no longer interim.

The Toolkit domain data will need updated to use these new FOTG codes.

7. The following revised standard(s) or documents have been added to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) with the following significant changes.

a. 472 – Access Control (October 2015)

Significant Changes: minor edits.

b. 560 – Access Road (October 2015)

Significant Changes: Definition = updated; Purposes = re-worded; Conditions = descriptions of other standards to use for other purposes; Criteria = grade will normally not exceed 10% and maximum grade will not exceed 15% but only in certain circumstances; spacing of water bars references a US Forest Service source.

c. 309 – Agrichemical Handling Facility (October 2015)

Significant Changes: Criteria = water:cement ratio decreased; compressive strength of concrete increased; chemical resistant coating required in certain cases; building codes more stringent – design reference for liquid-type storage changed.

d. 314 – Brush Management (October 2015)

Significant Changes: Purposes = added a purpose from a national waiver to authorize multiple treatments; Criteria = added criteria from a national waiver to authorize multiple treatments.

e. 327 – Conservation Cover (October 2015)

Significant Changes: Purposes = revised to be more specific; Criteria = additional criteria for water quality purposes added.

f. 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation (October 2015)

Significant Changes: Purposes = added and/or revised purposes related to soil health, water quality, pests, and others; Criteria = additional criteria to address new/revised purposes added.

g. 332 – Contour Buffer Strips (October 2015)

Significant Changes: Purposes = added and/or revised purposes related to water quality and soil moisture; removed wildlife as a purpose; Criteria = additional criteria to address new/revised purposes added.

h. 340 – Cover Crop (October 2015)

Significant Changes: Purposes = re-worded; Criteria = herbicides used with crops must be compatible with the cover crop species; grazing/haying must be compatible with pesticide use on the crop, and not compromise the planned purpose; cover crops can't be harvested for seed; rhizobium, if not present in the soil, required

for legumes; most additional criteria address timing and seeding rates specific to the purposes, including at least 50% of the planting's planned biomass will consist of winter-hardy species for water quality purpose.

- i. **340 – Cover Crop - Job Sheet (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: updated wording and references.
- j. **589C – Cross Wind Trap Strips (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Purposes = added snow deposition.
- k. **410 – Grade Stabilization Structure (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Definition = updated; Criteria = exposed areas need seeded/sodded or mulched.
- l. **412 – Grassed Waterway (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Criteria = no significant changes.
- m. **315 – Herbaceous Weed Control (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Purposes = added a purpose from a national waiver to authorize multiple treatments; Criteria = added criteria from a national waiver to authorize multiple treatments.
- n. **430 – Irrigation Pipeline (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Purposes = “reduce energy use” and “Develop renewable energy systems” added; Criteria = additional criteria to support the new purposes were added.
- o. **449 – Irrigation Water Management (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits.
- p. **643 – Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats - Job Sheet (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits.
- q. **558 – Roof Runoff Structure (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits.
- r. **610 – Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Purposes = tied more closely to soil health.
- s. **612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment - Job Sheet (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits.

- t. **660 – Tree/Shrub Pruning (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Purposes = new purposes added; Plans and Specifications = details added for branch pruning, pruning for timber and veneer, and woody plant root pruning.
 - u. **645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management - Food Plots Job Sheet (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: allows for planting of entire annual food plots if unwanted vegetation is likely if rotating by 1/3.
 - v. **645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Development Plan Job Sheet (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: the previous supplement is combined into this document.
 - w. **645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Wildlife Brush Piles Job Sheet (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits.
 - x. **634 – Waste Transfer (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Criteria = no longer applies to hauling manure or other animal products with vehicles.
 - y. **614 – Watering Facility (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: wildlife escapes required where wildlife may be at risk of drowning.
 - z. **642 – Water Well (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Criteria = a 100 feet setback is required from potential pollution sources.
 - aa. **351 – Well Decommissioning (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: Name = “Water” removed; Purposes = added 2 purposes to remove water or monitoring wells when no longer needed or capable of meeting the original intended purposes; Definition = monitoring wells added; Conditions = expanded to include all well types; Criteria = wells abandoned after July 1, 1988 must be decommissioned by an Indiana-licensed water well driller.
 - bb. **380 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment - Job Sheet (October 2015)**
Significant Changes: minor edits.
8. The following Tools have been updated/added to Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) with the following significant changes.

- a. ***Indiana Seeding Tool - Seeding Calculator (October 2015)***
Significant Changes: added monarch benefits data to forbs and forb sheet.
 - b. ***Indiana Seeding Tool – Cover Crop Seeding Calculator (October 2015)***
Significant Changes: cereal rye, annual ryegrass, and winter wheat are not compatible and not able to be included in mixes together.
9. The following changes to the Indiana Soils Information located on the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Web Soil Survey and Toolkit databases:
- a. The following counties had changes made to the spatial data used in Web Soil Survey and Toolkit databases. **(October 2015)**
 - i. ***Benton, Daviess, Knox, Kosciusko, Newton, and Shelby.***
 - b. The following interpretations were added to the tabular data used in Web Soil Survey, the eFOTG documents and Toolkit databases. **(October 2015)**
 - i. ***ISDH Septic Tank Interpretation (IN)***
 - c. The following summary of changes were made to the data used in Web Soil Survey, the eFOTG documents and Toolkit databases. **(October 2015)**
 - i. ***Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Dubois, Fountain, Franklin, Gibson, Greene, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Owen, Perry, Pike, Posey, Ripley, Scott, Spencer, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Warrick and Washington:*** Some minor components were added to map units in the database.
 - ii. ***All counties except White county:*** At least one SDJR map unit added to the database for these counties. This could alter the properties and interpretations for those map units added.
 - d. The following revised documents have been updated to Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) with the following changes under Detailed Soil Information for each county.
 - i. ***Catastrophic Mortality Reports (April 2015)***
 1. ***Catastrophic Mortality Report***
 2. ***Pit Interpretation Map***
 3. ***Trench Interpretation Map***
 4. ***Pit Excel file***
 5. ***Trench Excel file***
 Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports were created.

ii. *Cropland-Pasture Limitations (October 2015)*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

iii. *Crop Yields (October 2015)*

1. *Component Yields*

2. *Component Yields (majors only)*

3. *Map Unit Yields*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

iv. *Nitrate Leaching Index (October 2015)*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

e. The following revised documents have been updated to Section II of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) with the following changes.

i. *Catastrophic Mortality Reports (April 2015)*

1. *State Pit Interpretation Map*

2. *State Trench Interpretation Map*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

ii. *Forestry (October 2015)*

1. *Indiana Trees to Manage*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

The report was also altered to eliminate units that were formerly shown as “Not Rated” and all components were now calculated based on soil properties.

iii. *Highly Erodible Land for NonCompliance Use (October 2015)*

1. *HEL Status*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

iv. *Hydric Map Unit Percents (October 2015)*

1. *Indiana Hydric Classes*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

The report was also altered to eliminate units that were formerly shown as “Not Rated” and all components were now calculated based on soil properties.

v. *Nitrate Leaching Index for Indiana (October 2015)*

1. *Nitrate Leaching Index*

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports.

The report was also altered to eliminate units that were formerly shown as “Not Rated” and all components were now calculated based on soil properties.

vi. Windbreaks (October 2015)

1. Indiana Windbreak Guide

Minor updates due to new data released since previous reports. The report was also altered to eliminate units that were formerly shown as “Not Rated” and all components were now calculated based on soil properties.

f. The following changes were made to the RUSLE2 databases. **(November 2015)**

i. RUSLE2 databases were created for all counties in Indiana. These will be sent to Lincoln and will be posted to the RUSLE2 web site.
(http://fargo.nserl.purdue.edu/rusle2_dataweb/NRCS_Soils_Data_Files.htm)

The databases are ready for download by the field. Do this after you have downloaded the current SSURGO data set.

g. Attribute changes to the spatial data. **(October 2015)**

New and revised standards may be downloaded from the Indiana NRCS FOTG web page: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/FOTG/>. Standards are all located in Section IV along with their respective Job Sheets and other information.

If you need more information please contact Shannon Zezula at 317-295-5888.

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