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FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

LOUISIANA NOTICE 450-288

The purpose of this notice is to inform NRCS conservationists of the posting of modified Practice Standards, in Section IV of the Louisiana FOTG, for conservation practices listed below:

Brush Management (314)	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548)
Fence (382)	Prescribed Burning (338)
Forage Harvest Management (511)	Prescribed Grazing (528)

These standards were modified to be consistent with the most current National Practice Standards for the respective practices, and are now available in Louisiana's FOTG in "Section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications" under the respective practice name. The key changes made to each document are listed below.

Brush Management (314) – The most notable change is "**Conditions Where Practice Applies**". The old standard did not allow the practice to be planned on forests unless it was grazed. The new practice standard allows it on all lands except active cropland. Prescribed Burning has been removed as a brush management treatment. Only chemical, mechanical and biological treatments are included. In the "**Purpose Section**," wildfire hazard reduction has changed to be more comprehensive. The "**Criteria Section**" was enhanced to specifically address wildlife concerns and the use of Ecological Site Descriptions has been added as a requirement. The "**Plans and Specifications Section**" has been expanded to include requirements for monitoring.

Fence (382) – This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the Federal Register review process. The public comments lacked technical merit. **Only** the date of the standard was changed.

Forage Harvest Management (511) – Revisions are minor with updated references included

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (548) - The "**Criteria Section**" changed, referring to and adding prescribed grazing following treatment. Considerations were expanded and references were added.

Prescribed Burning (338) – The "**Considerations Section**" added pollinators

Prescribed Grazing (528) - This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the Federal Register review process. The public comments lacked technical merit. **Only** the date of the standard was changed.

Range Planting (550) – Revisions incorporates Ecological Site Description use for planning purposes and updates the reference section. Minor changes in wording occur throughout the standard

Questions and/or comments regarding this information should be addressed to Scott Edwards, State Resource Conservationist, at (318) 473-7774.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Britt Paul".

W. Britt Paul
Acting State Conservationist

DIST: A, F, SOS, SRC STAFF, PROGRAM STAFF, ENG STAFF, ALL ENG

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