



April 9, 2010

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. MA-248

TO: All holders of Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV

Purpose. This notice transmits two revised conservation practice standards, two revised specification guides and associated jobsheets, and one new interim conservation practice standard, statement of work, specification guide, and jobsheet.

- **Brush Management (314).** This standard was revised; substantial changes were made. Prescribed Burning is removed as a brush management treatment. Only chemical, mechanical and biological treatments are included. Prescribed burning for brush management purposes is covered in the Prescribed Burning (Code 338) standard. In the Purpose Section, wildfire hazard reduction has changed to be more comprehensive. Further, the Criteria Section was enhanced to specifically address wildlife concerns. The Plans and Specifications Section has been expanded to include requirements for monitoring.
- **Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647).** The conservation practice lifespan has been changed from 15-years to 1-year. The specification guide for this practice has been revised. Jobsheets for “Early Successional Forests”, “Oak Regeneration”, and “Old Field/Shrublands” have been developed.
- **Land Clearing (460).** This is a new standard recently adopted for use in Massachusetts.
- **Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643).** The conservation practice lifespan has been changed from 15-years to 10-years. The specification guide for this practice has been revised. Jobsheets for “Light Disking” and “Grasslands” have been developed.
- **Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (789).** This is a new interim standard issued for planning and installing high tunnel systems for crop production. The statement of work, approved product list, jobsheet, and landowner recordkeeping documents has also been completed.

Filing Instructions. Insert this notice in front of Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Replace the existing index located in front of Section IV with the revised index (03/15/10) provided with this notice. File the conservation practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG. All of the documents have been posted to the Electronic FOTG (eFOTG).

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USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Planning Instructions. Field Office staff members who have conservation planning responsibilities should refresh the “Customer Toolkit” software’s domain data as soon as possible.

/s/

BARBARA MILLER
State Resource Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: DCs
Field Engineers
State Conservation Engineer
Assistant State Conservation Engineer
S.O. Official MA FOTG
Scott Soares, Commissioner, DAR