



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Parkade Center, Suite 250, 601 Business Loop 70 West  
Columbia, Missouri 65203

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**To:** District Conservationists  
Area Conservationists  
Area Resource Conservationists  
Area Biologists  
Engineering Staff  
Field Technical Services Staff  
Key Staff  
Area Engineers  
Civil Engineers  
Project Engineers  
State Technical Committee

**Date:** October 1, 2009

**Subject:** Notice of proposed changes to Missouri Practice Standards for review and comment.

**ACTION REQUIRED TO STATE OFFICE by November 16, 2009.**

There are four Missouri draft practice standards and statements of work and one specification posted on the Missouri NRCS Webpage for review and comment.

**Draft practices posted for review and comment:**

- *Conservation Cover (327)- Standard and SOW*  
Criteria were added to address woody species that may be planted and seed source for wildlife plantings was clarified.
- *Critical Area Planting (342)- Standard and SOW*  
Criteria were added to address woody species that may be planted.
- *Forest Stand Improvement (666)- Standard and SOW*  
Additional guidance relating to "Additional Criteria to Reduce Wildfire Hazard" and "Additional Criteria to Improve Wildlife Habitat" have been added to the Forest Stand Improvement standard including criteria and specifications for downed tree structures, edge feathering, and woodland openings.
- *Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)- Standard and SOW*  
Substantive changes can be found in "CRITERIA", "CONSIDERATIONS", and "TABLE 1". Additional guidance related to criteria and specifications for downed tree structures, edge feathering, and woodland openings have also been added to the Forest Stand Improvement standard under "Additional Criteria to Improve Wildlife Habitat".
- *Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding (723)- Specification*  
Additional species added to Table 1 and footnotes of table were revised. Additional species and varieties were added to Table 2 and revised footnote. Clarification of wording made in the Soil Fertility section. Minor changes to Table 3 and footnotes 2 and 3 for this table.

To access the draft, click on the link below.

[http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/standards\\_index.html](http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/standards_index.html)

For the next 45 days, NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made to the subject standard(s). Draft standards are for review and comment only. District Conservationists should review these draft standards with conservation district boards and their employees.

The following procedure shall be followed for response from within NRCS and SWCD to the State Office: District responses should be furnished to the District Conservationist. DCs shall consolidate comments (NRCS and SWCD) from all counties within a FOSA and submit one response directly to the State Office. Area Offices should consolidate area staff responses. Send summaries and comments for 327, 342 and 723 to Ron Miller, State Agronomist; 645 to Chris Hamilton, State Biologist and 666 to Doug Wallace, State Forester. Responses may be mailed to the State Office or emailed to Ron at [ron.miller@mo.usd.gov](mailto:ron.miller@mo.usd.gov); Chris at [chris.hamilton@mo.usda.gov](mailto:chris.hamilton@mo.usda.gov); Doug at [doug.wallace@mo.usda.gov](mailto:doug.wallace@mo.usda.gov). Responses from members of the State Technical Committee can be sent to me. Responses may be mailed to the State Office or emailed to [bob.ball@mo.usda.gov](mailto:bob.ball@mo.usda.gov).

/s/ RON MILLER (Acting)  
BOB BALL  
State Resource Conservationist