

NHCP Exhibit 3 Practice Standard Template

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

NAME, (UNITS)

Established nationally and not to be altered or supplemented by States.

Code (code #)

Established nationally and not to be altered or supplemented by States.

PHOTO: [optional]

DEFINITION:

Established nationally and not to be altered or supplemented by States. The definition briefly describes the conservation practice and/or the technology delivered by the conservation practice.

PURPOSE (S):

The primary conservation objectives for which the conservation practice is applied are listed here. Purposes must relate to resource concerns that can be addressed by the technology in the conservation practice standard.

Each purpose must be supported by appropriate criteria in the **CRITERIA** section. States may add a purpose by requesting a variance as outlined in GM 450 Subpart B section 401.16. States may delete any purpose that addresses a resource concern that has not been identified in that State.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES:

The land uses and/or site conditions that affect suitability or function of the practice are described.

CRITERIA:

Criteria must be presented for each **PURPOSE** indicated above. As a minimum, a **General Criteria** statement that is applicable to all purposes is used. Additional criteria for some or all of the purposes may be needed if there are design elements that apply only to that purpose. The **CRITERIA** section shall include important design elements about which decisions must be made, including any necessary minimum and maximum limits.

Design tools and procedures are not to be included, but can be referenced. Copies of such references are to be maintained at a designated filing location. These references are generally listed in the **REFERENCES** section.

Long lists, such as seeding information, should be referenced. Other conservation practice standards may be referenced in the criteria section if they have design procedures or technologies that are applicable.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Additional details that could enhance application for both primary and secondary conservation benefits should be identified and brought to the planner's attention in this section of the standard. Secondary purposes or incidental benefits are listed in this section. An example would be delaying field operations until after the spring hatch for wildlife benefits. **CONSIDERATIONS** is the one section of the standard that contains information that is optional to the designer.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

This section lists information that needs to be in the plans and for the conservation practice to ensure that the technology in the practice standard is properly applied in the field. Plans and specifications include construction plans, drawings, job sheets, or other similar documents. The documents are to specify the requirements for installing the practice, such as the kind, amount, or quality of materials to be used, or timing or sequence of installation activities.

Items listed in this section carry the same weight as criteria, meaning they must be followed. States may not delete any of these items, or make them less stringent than the National conservation practice standard.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:

Include required management actions and corrective actions that contribute to the longevity and functioning of the conservation practice. Operation encompasses normal management actions, such as mowing for weed control, periodic opening and closing of water supply gates, and other similar actions. Maintenance involves corrective actions, such as needed repairs due to normal wear and tear, replacement of conservation practice components at periodic intervals during the life of the practice, and other similar activities.

Items listed in this section carry the same weight as criteria, meaning they must be followed. States may not delete any of these items, or make them less stringent than the National conservation practice standard.

REFERENCES:

Technical references that are the source of or support the technology in the standard are listed here. The list shall be as short as possible.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the latest version of this standard, visit the Field Office Technical Guide for your state at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg .
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