NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES **May 12, 2011**
450 – VI
NOTICE 153
Amend. 11

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised National Conservation Practice Standards, along with an updated index, for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included to highlight key changes made to each document.

Effective Date. This notice is effective upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes. New or revised National Conservation Practice Standards, as follows:

Aquatic Organism Passage (Code 396) - The title was changed from "Fish Passage" to "Aquatic Organism Passage" to better reflect the full range of passage projects completed under the standard across the United States and its protectorates. Both the Definition and Purpose were modified by removing unnecessary words. Two new Criteria were added. Textual references to additional relevant standards were added, and the references cited section was updated to match material presented in the body of the standard. Minor edits were made to improve the readability and clarity of the standard.

Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (Code 400) – This is a new conservation practice standard.

Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code589c) - The purpose is to induce deposition and reduce transport of wind-borne sediment and sediment-borne contaminants downwind changed to induce wind-borne sediment deposition. Deleted the purpose to provide food and cover for wildlife. Added two new purposes: induce snow deposition and improve air quality by reducing the generations of airborne particulate matter. The existing criteria in the standard were reformatted to be listed under the appropriate additional criteria for the intended purpose.

Irrigation Field Ditch (Code 388) – Revised Purpose, adding Improvement of Distribution Uniformity and Irrigations Efficiency; revised Criteria, to remove compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; revised Criteria, changing reference for maximum design velocity from Technical Release 25 to National Engineering Handbook 654; expanded Considerations; expanded Plans and Specifications; and added References.

DIST: S, R, L, and National Center Director

Waste Facility Closure (Code 360) - This standard was updated to include the remediation of contaminated soil in dry waste storage facilities. The title was also changed from "Closure of Waste Impoundments" to "Waste Facility Closure" to reflect the expanded definition of decommissioning dry waste facilities. A more widespread use of this standard is anticipated with the inclusion of dry waste facilities.

Filing Instructions. If a hard copy of the NHCP is maintained, replace the "Contents" pages i through vi, dated September 2010, with the revised pages found at http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/H_450_NHCP_Index_153.rtf.

Insert the new or revised standards listed above in bold in the NHCP in alphabetical order, as designated on the revised "Contents" pages. Remove and archive, as appropriate, the existing practice standard for the following:

Fish Passage (Code 396) dated August 2006
Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code589c) dated February 2005
Irrigation Field Ditch (Code 388) dated March 2003
Closure of Waste Impoundments (Code 360) dated February 2005

This notice, and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice, can be accessed electronically through NRCS at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Standards/nhcp.html or from the FTP server at ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NHQ/practice-standards/standards/.

Federal Register Notices.

NRCS published a notice to solicit public comments about how to improve specific agency conservation practice standards in the *Federal Register* on January 11, 2011, for 45-day comment period. Comments from the public were accepted during the comment periods.

Guidance to the States and the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State-level technical guides can be found in Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, Section 401.19.

/s/ Claudia C. Hoeft for

NOLLER P. HERBERT
Director
Conservation Engineering Division

/s/

Terrell Erickson
Director
Ecological Sciences Division