



NHCP-10

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES, NOTICE 116
450-VI**

Purpose. This notice transmits new and revised conservation practice standards and a Model State Standard for insertion in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes for clarification have been added as needed.

Effective Date. This notice is effective when received.

NEW OR REVISED STANDARDS

<u>Practice Standard</u>	<u>Action</u>
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	Insert - Revised Standard
Covered Anaerobic Lagoon (360)	Insert - National Interim Standard
Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655)	Insert - Revised Standard
Riparian Forest Buffer (391)	Insert - Revised Standard
Well Decommissioning (351)	Insert - New Standard

Explanation.

Several users of the Field Office Computing System (FOCS) have pointed out that disparities exist between codes and terminology used in NHCP and in FOCS. The release of FOCS, PASIS 2.1.0 will correct known disparities between NHCP and FOCS.

Effective with this notice is the issuance of National Interim Conservation Practice Standards. Covered Anaerobic Lagoon (360) is being issued as the first national interim standard. States choosing to implement this standard are to follow the policy in the General Manual, Subpart B, Section 401.16. The General Manual will be revised to reflect approval of national interim standards by the appropriate division director and all



other interim standards by State Conservationists. An interim standard is effective for three years. At the end of three years, an interim standard will be reviewed, and a decision made to adopt it as a national conservation practice standard, to maintain it as state interim standard, or to abandon it as a standard.

Conservation Crop Rotation (328). This practice standard is revised by rewriting the second paragraph under "Additional Criteria To Manage Deficient or Excess Plant Nutrients." In addition, the first paragraph under "Considerations" is revised by changing (589) to (589B) and Contour Stripcropping to Stripcropping, Contour.

Covered Anaerobic Lagoon (360). This practice standard is being issued as a National Interim Standard. It will be evaluated according to the procedures outlined in GM-460, Part 401.16.

Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655). The practice number was changed from 654 to (655) to avoid operational conflicts in FOCS planning and reporting.

Pasture and Hayland Management (510). This practice standard was deleted by NHCP Notice 115. Standards for pasture management are now contained in practice Prescribed Grazing (528A) and Nutrient Management (590). Additional elements from this standard will be contained in the proposed practice standard "Weed Management" to be developed. Standards for hayland management have not been accounted for at this time, however, proposed practice standard "Forage Harvest" will contain criteria for hayland. In the interim period, planners should continue to use the guidance in the archived practice standard Pasture & Hayland Management (510) when preparing conservation plans that require this guidance.

Riparian Forest Buffer (391). The practice number was changed from 392 to 391 to avoid operational conflicts in FOCS planning and reporting. In addition, the first paragraph under "Additional Criteria To Reduce Excess Amounts of Sediment, ----- flow" is revised to clarify the required buffer width.

Stripcropping, Wind (589). This practice standard was deleted by NHCP Notice 115. Standards for this practice are now contained in practice standards, Cross Wind Ridges (589A), Cross Wind Stripcropping (589B), and Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C).

Waste Storage Pond (425). This practice standard was deleted by NHCP Notice 115. Standards for this practice are now contained in practice standard Waste Storage Facility (313).

Well Decommissioning (351). This practice standard is new and was developed in response to the growing need to close wells that have no further beneficial use. Extensive evaluation of this practice was done during its trial period as an interim standard.

Woodland Direct Seeding (652). This practice standard was deleted by NHCP Notice 115. Standards for this practice are now contained in practice standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (612).

Model State Standard and General Specifications for Riparian Forest Buffer. This model State standard is included to serve as an example of how a National standard can be localized and supplemented to suit the needs of a specific State or Region.

Instructions.

Replace the "Contents" pages in the NHCP with the attached revised version. Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised "Contents" pages.

File the "Model State Standard and General Specifications for Riparian Forest Buffer" behind the "National Standards Action Plan."

Remove the following standards from the NHCP. Archive these until no longer needed in accordance with instructions in NHCP, Notice 113, dated September 29, 1992. It is suggested that States provide instructions to Field Offices on how and where to file archived standards. One option is to place a divider at the back of Section IV labeled "Archived Standards" and file all deleted and revised standards behind this divider. This same procedure is recommended for filing in the NHCP.

<u>Practice Standard</u>	<u>Date</u>
Conservation Crop Rotation (328)	6/94
Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655)	6/94
Riparian Forest Buffer (392)	4/95

Section 343 "Public Notice and Comment for Revising Certain State Technical Guides" of Subtitle E of the 1996 farm bill contains the following language:

After the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide for public notice and comment under section 553 of title 5, United States Code with regard to any future revisions to those provisions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service State technical guides that are used to carry out subtitles A, B, and C of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.).

Conservation practices standards are subject to the requirements described above if they are used to carry out the referenced subtitles. Policy is being drafted for the General Manual that will provide guidance for complying with this requirement.

One hard copy of this notice, and the attachments are being sent to all States, Regional Offices and Institutes, and Cooperating Scientists. Additional hard copies may be obtained from the Consolidated Forms and Publication Distribution Center (CFPDC) by ordering NHCP-10.

Copies of this notice and each of the new or revised conservation practice standards included with it can also be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS Home Page on the World Wide Web (WWW) or from the FTP server in Fort Worth. The new system will replace the Centralized Automated Practice Standards System (CAPSS), and will allow access to NRCS conservation practice standards by both NRCS and by others.

This system will be managed at the National Cartographic and Geospatial Center (NCG) in Fort Worth, Texas. It will contain all national conservation practice standards in two formats. One will enable a person to read, download, and print the standard exactly as it appears on the Web as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file using Adobe Acrobat software. This software is available, free of charge on the Web, via a link from the Conservation Practices home page. PDF files cannot be edited without special software not available to all NRCS users.

The second format will allow NRCS users to download national standards as MS Word for Windows 6.0 files. These can then be edited and developed into state conservation practice standards.

To effectively use the Web pages that contain links to conservation practice standards, users will need a browser that supports tables, such as Netscape Navigator or MS Explorer. The selection buttons "DOC" and "PDF" may not be visible to users accessing the Web using versions of Mosaic.

NRCS offices that do not have access to the Web or who do not have appropriate software can download conservation practice standards as MS Word documents via the FTP server at NCG. The name of the server is "<ftp.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov>." Practice standards appear as files in "</pub/nhcp/standard>." Practice code numbers are used as file names in this subdirectory. Practices that are downloaded from the FTP server should be downloaded as binary files. Handbook notices and attachments can also be accessed as files in "</pub/nhcp/notice>." For notices, the notice numbers denote the file names.

All standards released with Notice 116 will be available as both PDF and MS Word files upon release of the notice. Other standards are presently on the Web in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) files. They will become available in the (PDF) and MS

Word formats as they are converted from their present form.

The model state conservation practice standard for Riparian Forest Buffers is not available on the Web. It is available on the FTP server at NCG in the subdirectory **"/pub/nhcp/notice."** The file name for this model state standard is **"116mss.doc."**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard L. Dueterhaus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

RICHARD L. DUESTERHAUS
Deputy Chief, Soil Science and
Resource Assessment

Attachments