



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

NHCP-1AI

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
450 – VI
NOTICE 141

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised conservation practice standards 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 when received.

Explanation. New or revised National Conservation Practice Standards (NCPS):

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395): Changes were made to all sections of the standard. The conditions where practice applies section was broadened to include a statement that captures additional components of stream habitats and identifies the “Stream Visual Assessment Protocol” as an evaluation tool to assess conditions. Considerations were expanded to include fish barriers, fish screens, and geomorphic features of streams.

Fish Passage (Code 396): This practice standard has been significantly modified from the previous version. The definition, practice purpose, and conditions where the practice applies were reworded to better reflect the scope and range of projects carried out under Code 396. The criteria section was rearranged into two broad sections: planning and evaluation and design requirements. A number of criteria in the standard have been changed to be more consistent with current technology. New considerations were added to expand planners’ thought processes on other aspects of fish passage projects. Plans and specifications and operations and maintenance items were outlined to suggest improved methods of communicating project specifics to involved parties. Ten references were added to support criteria and considerations discussed in the standard.

Fishpond Management (Code 399): Changes to this practice standard include clarifying language regarding aquaculture purposes; adding State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan implementation recommendations; emphasizing the need for a comprehensive pond management plan; and including aquatic organism health sampling aspects. Current references on fish culture, nuisance species, and detection of pathogens were added.

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Above Ground, Multi-Outlet Pipeline (Code 431): This practice standard replaces the existing Irrigation Water Conveyance, Rigid Gated Pipeline standard (Code 430HH). It was revised to include lay-flat polyethylene pipe. Significant changes were also made to the definition, purpose, and conditions where the practice applies.

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441): This practice standard has been significantly modified from the previous version. The definition and practice purposes were reworded. A purpose was added to address systems installed for vegetation establishment. Water quality assessment was changed from a consideration to a criterion. A number of criteria in the standard have been changed to be more consistent with current technology. Standard format was changed to reflect current standard development guidance including addition of a number of technical references.

Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane (Code 521A): This practice has been significantly modified from the previous version. Changes to the Criteria section associated with design requirements have been substantive.

Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mine Land (Code 543): Significant changes were made to both the content and format. The standard has been expanded to provide more direction in developing the plans and specifications and access to references.

Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land (Code 544): Significant changes were made to both the content and format. The standard has been expanded to provide more direction in developing the plans and specifications and access to references.

Nutrient Management (Code 590): An error was discovered in the May 2006 release of this standard. The fourth bullet under the Purpose section which read “*To protect air quality by reducing nitrogen emissions (ammonium and NO_x compounds) and the formation of atmospheric particulates*” contained a significant spelling error, *ammonium* should have been spelled *ammonia*. Because of the significance of this error a new release of this standard was considered prudent.

Watering Facility (Code 614): This practice has been revised to address both livestock and wildlife. Significant changes have been made to the previous standard. Wildlife Watering Facility (Code 648) is cancelled by this notice.

Wetland Enhancement (Code 659): The definition has been modified to more accurately describe what the standard is to be used for and to help clear up confusion between the use of this standard and the “Wetland Restoration” standard.

Instructions. Replace the Contents pages i through vi dated May 2006 in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages.

Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised Contents pages.

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the practice standards for: Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395) dated March 2001, Fish Passage (Code 396) dated March 2001, Fishpond Management (Code 399) dated September 2001, Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441) dated August 2000, Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane (Code 521A) dated September 1999, Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mine Land (Code 543) dated October 2003, Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land (Code 544) dated October 2003, Nutrient Management (Code 590) dated May 2006, Wildlife Watering Facility (Code 648) dated August 1998, Watering Facility (Code 614) dated August 2000, and Wetland Enhancement (Code 659) dated August 2005.

Copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State offices (or equivalent) and National Centers. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1AI from the NRCS Publications Web page at <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/> or by calling 1-888-LANDCAR.

This notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS homepage on the World Wide Web 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.

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the *Federal Register* in May 2006. Comments from the public were accepted for 30 days.

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

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Attachments