



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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**August 11, 2010**

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**  
**450 – VI**  
**NOTICE 151**  
**Amendment 9**

**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:

**Access Road (Code 560).**—This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. Criteria were added to locate away from bodies of water. Overland flow is also to be avoided.

**Bedding (Code 310).**—Revised Criteria to remove regulatory compliance statement and revised Considerations to streamline text.

**Clearing and Snagging (Code 326).**—No significant technical changes were made to this practice standard; however, significant edits and grammatical changes have been made. Revised Definition to clarify that clearing and snagging includes the removal of vegetation from streambanks. Criteria were limited to the purposes stated, while Considerations were expanded to improve the conservation function. Policy statements (e.g., must comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations) were removed from the standard. Minimum requirements for plan and specification content were added. References were added.

**Constructed Wetland (Code 656).**—This standard was formally reviewed and updated to include public comments received through the *Federal Register* review process. An additional consideration for selecting plant materials that provide habitat requirements for desirable wildlife and enhancing pollinator habitat is included in the standard. No other changes have been made to the standard.

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**Multi-Story Cropping (Code 379).**—In response to public comments, the term “pollinator” was added to general criteria discussing beneficial insects and to the second planning consideration that discusses species diversity.

**Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391).**—In response to public comments, the term “pollinator” was added to additional criteria to create or improve riparian habitat, and additional considerations discuss species diversity and species tolerance to herbicide leakage.

**Silvopasture Establishment (Code 381).**—In response to public comments, the term “pollinator” was added to the Additional Criteria to Enhance Wildlife Habitat and to the Considerations that discusses species diversity. Additional Considerations were added discussing the use of native vegetation and a statement that silvopasture may not be feasible in some existing forest and woodland communities.

**Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380).**—In response to public comments, the term “pollinator” was added to the wildlife planning consideration that discusses species diversity.

**Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Code 650).**—In response to public comments, the term “pollinator” was added to the wildlife planning consideration that discusses species diversity.

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**Filing Instructions.** If a hard copy of the NHCP is maintained, replace the Contents pages i through vi, dated November 2008, with the revised Contents pages found at [http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/H\\_450\\_NHCP\\_Index\\_151.rtf](http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/H_450_NHCP_Index_151.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:

Access Road (Code 560) dated October 2003  
 Bedding (Code 310) dated March 2003  
 Clearing and Snagging (Code 326) dated November 2002  
 Constructed Wetland (Code 656) dated May 2008  
 Multi-Story Cropping (Code 379) dated January 2006  
 Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391) dated January 2006  
 Silvopasture Establishment (Code 381) dated May 2006  
 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380) dated January 2006  
 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Code 650) dated January 2006.

This notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice can be accessed electronically through either the NRCS homepage on the Internet 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 two notices to solicit public comments about how to improve agency conservation practice standards in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2009, for a 60-day comment period and August 14, 2009, for a 30-day comment period. Comments from the public were accepted during the 60-day and 30-day comment periods.

Guidance to the States and the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas can be found in [Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, Conservation Practice Standards, 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.

/s/ Doug Toews for

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/s/

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