



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

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**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**      **November 15, 2011**  
**450 – VI**  
**NOTICE 155**  
Amend. 13

**Purpose.** This notice transmits new or revised National Conservation Practice Standards (CPS), 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 are as follows:

**Dry Hydrant (CPS Code 432)** – The Criteria section was clarified, Plans and Specification section added a list of items to include, and references were added.

**Feed Management (CPS Code 592)** – The units changed from Animal Units (AUs) or Number to only AUs. The Purpose changed to include pathogen, odor, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas mitigation. Additions to Conditions Where Practice Applies, Criteria, Considerations, Operations and Maintenance, and References were made to support the change in Purpose.

**Fishpond Management (CPS Code 399)** – The Definition was changed. Two issues previously included under "Considerations" have been moved to the "Criteria" section and additional action was added to the "Operation and Maintenance" section.

**Forest Trails and Landings (CPS Code 655)** – In NHCP Notice 149 revising this practice, the announcement of the practice unit change from Acres to Feet was omitted and has caused some confusion. The units were changed to align with the units for Access Road (Ft.) (CPS Code 560) and Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (Ft.) (CPS Code 654). The standard is being reissued to highlight Feet as the primary unit, with Acres as an alternate unit.

**Fuel Break (CPS Code 383)** – Only minor edits are being proposed.

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



**Land Clearing (CPS Code 460)** – The purpose was rewritten. Criteria was added for soil quality and water quality.

**Livestock Pipeline (CPS Code 516)** – The title changed from “Pipeline” to “Livestock Pipeline.” Revised Criteria and removed material specifications; expanded Considerations; revised Plans and Specifications; and revised Operation and Maintenance.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane (CPS Code 521A)** – The material requirements have been revised to conform to industry-wide practice and to the most current versions of accepted generic standards, such as American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) and other industry standards.

**Stream Crossing (CPS Code 578)** – Criteria include more details related to passage of aquatic organisms and hydraulic criteria.

**Subsurface Drain (CPS Code 606)** – Revised Purposes; expanded Conditions Where Practice Applies; revised Criteria; expanded Considerations; added Operation and Maintenance; and added References

**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\\_155.rtf](http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/H_450_NHCP_Index_155.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 following existing practice standards:

Dry Hydrant (CPS Code 432), dated March 1999

Feed Management (CPS Code 592), dated September 2003

Fishpond Management (CPS Code 399), dated August 2006

Forest Trails and Landings (CPS Code 655), dated January 2010

Fuel Break (CPS Code 383), dated April 2005

Land Clearing (CPS Code 460), dated September 2003

Livestock Pipeline (CPS Code 516), dated May 2011

Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane (CPS Code 521A), dated August 2006

Stream Crossing (CPS Code 578), dated September 2010

Subsurface Drain (CPS Code 606), dated September 2003

This notice, and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice, can be accessed electronically through the NRCS website 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* Notice.

NRCS published a notice to solicit public comments about how to improve specific agency conservation practice standards in the *Federal Register* on August 23, 2011, for a 30-day comment period. Comments from the public were accepted during the comment period.

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 the General Manual, Title 450, Part 401, Subpart B, Section 401.19.

/s/

NOLLER P. HERBERT  
Director  
Conservation Engineering Division

/s/

TERRELL ERICKSON  
Director  
Ecological Sciences Division