



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

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NHCP-1AC

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES**  
**450 – VI**  
**NOTICE 129**

**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 for clarification.

**Effective Date.** This notice is effective when received.

**Explanation.**

New or revised Standards:

**Channel Stabilization (584)** – The Channel Stabilization standard is a substantial revision of the 1977 version. The most significant change is reflected in the name change from "Stream Channel Stabilization" to "Channel Stabilization" to reflect the emphasis on any channel that conveys water. The standard now applies to any channel design for the purposes of fixing an unstable bottom, as well as designing a stable bottom. The 1977 version was only for stabilizing unstable stream channel bottoms.

**Critical Area Planting (342)** – This is a complete revision of the October 1977 standard to bring it in line with existing policy.

**Cross Wind Ridges (589A)** – This standard is updated to stay within the 5-year review policy and has had only minor editing.

**Dam (402)** – This conservation practice standard has been updated to current format and replaces existing practice standards on Dam, Floodwater Retarding (402) and Dam, Multi-Purpose (349). The definition of a dam has been updated to agree with Federal dam safety laws. Applicability of cross referenced design criteria has been clarified. Cultural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat considerations have been added.

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**Hillside Ditch (423)** – Hillside Ditch revisions include reformatting and adding the following:

- A Considerations section,
- An Operation and Maintenance section specifying minimum provisions,
- Under permissible velocities, reference to Engineering Field Handbook Part 650, Chapter 14, Table 14-3.
- Criteria for establishment of vegetative barriers in areas where average slopes exceed 25%.

**Irrigation Regulating Reservoir (552)** – Irrigation Regulating Reservoir revisions include deleting “Pit or” from the title, reformatting and adding the following:

- A Considerations section,
- An Operation and Maintenance section specifying minimum provisions,
- “Improve offsite water quality” as a purpose with the additional criteria for such, and
- Additional criteria for storage for tailwater recovery and reuse.

**Irrigation Storage Reservoir (436)** – Irrigation Storage Reservoir standard has been completely rewritten. Most pertinent changes include adding “embankment, or pit” to the definition and the addition of several Considerations and an Operation and Maintenance section.

**Land Smoothing (466)** – This standard has been updated to current format. The Definition and Purpose sections have been updated. In Conditions Where Practice Applies section, it states that this practice does not apply to regular maintenance on practices Precision Land Forming (462) or Irrigation Land Leveling (464). A Considerations section and an Operation and Maintenance section have been added.

**Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)** – This national conservation practice standard has been updated to current format. The Definition has been changed to allow the use of synthetic turf reinforcement fabrics. Figure 2 has been removed and referenced to Appendix 16A, Engineering Field Handbook. A new design method has been added. A Considerations section and an Operation and Maintenance section have been added.

**Mulching (484)** – This is a complete revision of the October 1977 standard to bring it in line with existing policy.

**Pond (378)** – This conservation practice standard has been updated to current format. Design tables for required pipe strength have been replaced with generic design criteria to enable use of wider range of pipe materials. Additional information has been added on geologic investigations, cultural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat considerations.

**Precision Land Forming (462)** – This conservation practice standard has been updated to current format. The number of purposes has been reduced to avoid overlapping the requirement of other standards. A Consideration section and an Operation and Maintenance section have been added.

**Pumping Plant (533)** – Pumping Plant standard revisions include deleting “for Water Control” from the title, reformatting, and adding the following:

- A Considerations section,
- An Operation and Maintenance section,
- Criteria for transfer of wastewater or manure under the pump requirements
- Requirements for availability of fuel or power as selection criteria under the power units section, and
- A backflow prevention requirement under suction and discharge pipes section.

**Rock Barrier (555)** – This standard has been updated to current format. The Conditions Where Practice Applies section has been expanded. New sections for Considerations and Operation and Maintenance have been added. In the Criteria section, the minimum horizontal distance between barriers has been reduced to 5 feet.

**Soil Salinity Management – Nonirrigated (571)** – This is a complete revision of the May 1988 standard to bring it in line with existing policy

**Stripcropping (585)** – Stripcropping is a new practice standard that includes the following practice standards: Contour Stripcropping (585), dated February 2000; Stripcropping, Field (586), dated October 1978; and Cross Wind Stripcropping (589B), dated June 1994. The decision was made that these practices involve the same basic technology and were therefore combined into a single standard. The new standard, Stripcropping (585) retains the original practice code for Contour Stripcropping.

**Surface Drainage Main or Lateral (608)** – Surface Drainage Main or Lateral revision includes reformatting, removing purposes that apply to Subsurface Drainage (606) and Surface Drainage-Field Ditch (607) and adding the following:

- A Considerations section,
- An Operation and Maintenance section,
- References to Engineering Field Handbook (EFH) Part 650, Chapter 14, Section 650.1412 for criteria for side slopes, values of  $n$  for determining channel design capacity, and minimum berm widths in lieu of including tables in the standard.
- There are additional changes under criteria in the sections on depth, cross section, velocity, and the first paragraph of related structures and ditch protection.

**Terrace (600)** – This national conservation practice standard has been updated to current format. The number of purposes has been reduced from 8 to 2. References to the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) have been updated to the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). In the capacity section of criteria, the reference to SCS-TP-61, Handbook of Channel Design for Soil and Water Conservation has been changed to requiring the use of Agricultural Handbook Number 667, Stability Design of Grass-lined Open Channels.

**Waterspreading (640)** – Waterspreading revisions include reformatting and adding a Considerations section and an Operation and Maintenance section, and adding freeboard requirements for water impounding dike and outlet works.

**The following standards are being withdrawn:**

**Cross Wind Stripcropping (589B)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. It is now included in Stripcropping (585). If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Dam, Floodwater Retarding (402)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. The information from this standard is now contained in Dam (402). If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Dam, Multi-Purpose (349)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. The information from this standard is now contained in Dam (402). If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Floodwater Diversion (400)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. Use of this standard has been very limited. Criteria contained in this standard are included in Dike (356) or Diversion (362). If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Floodway (404)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. Use of this standard has been very limited. Criteria contained in this standard are included in Dike (356) or Diversion (362). If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Irrigation Pit (552A)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. This information is now included in practice standard Irrigation Storage Reservoir (436). If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Asphalt-Sealed Fabric Liner (521E)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. Materials for this practice are no longer readily available. If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Pond Sealing or Lining, Cationic Emulsion-Waterborne Sealant (521D)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Stripcropping, Field (586)** – This national conservation practice standard is being withdrawn. It is now included in Stripcropping (585). If States have versions of this standard in their Field Office Technical Guides, they need to be removed.

**Instructions.**

Replace the Contents pages i through v in the NHCP with the attached revised Contents pages dated July 2002.

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

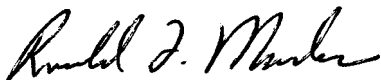
Remove and archive, as appropriate, the practice standards for Contour Stripcropping (585), dated 2/00; Critical Area Planting (342), dated 10/77; Cross Wind Ridges (589A), dated 6/94; Cross Wind Stripcropping (589), dated 6/94; Dam, Floodwater Retarding (402), dated 10/77; Dam, Multi-Purpose (349), dated 10/78; Floodwater Diversion (400), dated 10/77; Floodway (404), dated 10/77; Hillside Ditch (423), dated 10/85; Irrigation Pit (552A), dated 10/77; Irrigation Regulating Reservoir (552), dated 10/77; Irrigation Storage Reservoir (436), dated 10/77; Land Smoothing (466), dated 10/80; Lined Waterway or Outlet (468), dated 10/77; Mulching (484), dated 10/77; Pond (378), dated 10/87; Pond Sealing or Lining, Asphalt-Sealed Fabric Liner (521E), dated 10/77; Pond Sealing or Lining, Cationic Emulsion-Waterborne Sealant (521D), dated 10/77; Precision Land Forming (462), dated 10/80; Pumping Plant for Water Control (533), dated 10/77; Rock Barrier (555), dated 10/77; Soil Salinity Management – Nonirrigated (581), dated 5/88; Stream Channel Stabilization (584), dated 10/77; Stripcropping, Field (586), dated 10/78; Surface Drainage Main or Lateral (608), dated 10/78; Terrace (600), dated 4/82; Waterspreading (640), dated 10/85.

Copies of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all State offices (or equivalent), Regional Offices, Centers, and Institutes. Additional copies may be obtained by ordering NHCP-1AC from the GSA National Forms and Publications Center, 7CPN, Warehouse 4, Dock 1, 501 West Felix Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76115, using GSA Form 49.

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.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice\\_std.html](http://www.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/practice_std.html). or from the FTP server in Fort Worth, Texas.

### **Federal Register Notices.**

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to revise or adopt these standards in the *Federal Register*. Comments were accepted for 30 days. Guidance to the States for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State technical guides can be found in 450 – GM, Section 401.19.



RONALD L. MARLOW  
Director  
Conservation Engineering Division



DIANE E. GELBURD  
Director  
Ecological Sciences Division

Attachments