



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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## NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES

450 – NHCP  
NOTICE 168

May 9, 2019

**Purpose.** This notice transmits new or revised national Conservation Practice Standards (CPSs), along with an updated index, for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). Notes are included to highlight key changes made to each CPS. Additionally, a new lead discipline has been added, energy conservation engineer, and several CPSs reassigned to that lead discipline.

**Effective Date.** This notice is effective upon receipt.

**Explanation of Changes.** New and revised national CPSs are as follows:

**Combustion System Improvement (Code 372)** – Revised language of the general criteria and criteria applicable to the air quality and energy purposes to address some confusion encountered in the implementation of the practice.

**Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (Code 373)** – Relatively minor changes have been made to the 2010 version. Two purposes were added to more adequately describe the reasons for using this practice: “Improve visibility by reducing emissions of particulate matter;” and “Improve plant health and vigor by reducing emissions of particulate matter.”

**Pest Management Conservation System (Code 595)** – The standard has been updated to clarify the conservation activities within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. NRCS pest management roles are a subset of an overall IPM plan, therefore the name was changed to reflect this relationship. The criteria support farmers and ranchers wanting to address resource concerns and implement pest management conservation activities: Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring and Suppression (PAMS); mitigation of suppression activities and pest resistance management. All of these activities can be a part of an IPM plan.

**Nutrient Management (Code 590)** – The revision has no significant definition technical changes, but instead has a focus on improving the usability of 590 CPS at the operational level (state and field) of the agency. Formatting and writing style were updated to meet current agency requirements. Bullet point statements are used to specify single concepts and replace paragraphs containing multiple concepts.

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**Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395)** – The definition and purpose are simplified to better focus upon habitat. Language is added to better coordinate CPS 395 with other conservation practices. Application of the practice within a watershed context is now required as a specified criterion rather than as a consideration. Formatting and writing style have been updated to meet current agency requirements.

**Subsurface Drain (Code 606)** – Formatting and writing style have been updated to meet current agency requirements. Relocated and rearranged the sections of the standard to improve document flow. The minimum velocity has been raised to 08.fps for areas without sedimentation problems and provisions have been included for use of square junction boxes.

**Waste Facility Closure (Code 360)** – Formatting and writing style have been updated to improve clarity. Criteria has been added to dry waste storages to render the site unsuitable for stacking or treating waste. Language has been added to the standard to make it clear that the standard is not used for rehabilitation or expansion of existing facilities.

**Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420)** – This is a new conservation practice standard developed to better address the technical complexities of establishing wildlife habitat, including pollinator and monarch butterfly habitat plantings. Wildlife Habitat Planting (420) will be planned and applied when establishing herbaceous vegetation for wildlife. Planting trees for wildlife will be planned and applied using Tree and Shrub Establishment (Code 612).

Additionally, the unit for Waste Recycling (633) was corrected in the index from (ac) to (no) to match the standard. Also, the lifespan for Stream Crossing (578) has been changed from 5 years to 10 years.

**Filing Instructions.** If a hardcopy of the NHCP is maintained, replace the “Contents” section (pages i through vi, dated October 2017) with the revised pages found at <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=22299>

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the following existing practice standards:

Combustion System Improvement (Code 372), dated April 2010  
 Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (Code 373), dated April 2010  
 Integrated Pest management (Code 595), dated January 2010  
 Nutrient Management (Code 590), dated January 2012  
 Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395), dated September 2010  
 Subsurface Drain (Code 606), dated September 2011  
 Waste Facility Closure (Code 360), dated May 2011

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/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143\\_026849](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849)

*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 22, 2016 and August 24, 2018 for a 30-day comment periods. 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 Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, Section 401.19.

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