

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

ACCESS CONTROL

(Ac.)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

PURPOSE

Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment in coordination with the application schedule of practices, measures and activities specified in the conservation plan.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all land uses.

CRITERIA

Each activity or measure will identify the entity to be monitored and regulated (animals, people, vehicles and/or equipment) and specify the intent, intensity, amounts, and timing of exclusion by that entity. Activities may involve temporary to permanent exclusion of one to all entities.

Placement, location, dimensions and materials (e.g., signs, gates), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates) shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

Use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers, permits) shall achieve the intended purpose and include mitigating associated resource concerns to acceptable levels during their installation, operation, and maintenance. Activities will complement the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.

Constructed barriers can be of natural or artificial materials such as logs, vegetation, topography, permanent water courses, field boundaries, earth fill, boulders, gates or signs.

Use of fencing such as wood slats or boards, barbed wire, high tensile wire, woven wire or electrical fencing will use the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Fence (382) for installation guidelines.

Barriers consisting of trees and/or shrubs will use the guidelines in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380).

Barriers for stream corridor protection will be constructed on stable stream banks and shall not be closer than 30 feet to the stream. Barriers established adjacent to water bodies for water quality protection shall maintain the appropriate width of desired vegetation as specified in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Filter Strip (393) or Riparian Forest Buffer (391).

Placement of the barrier shall be an appropriate distance, but not more than 100 feet from the targeted area being protected.

Barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR 100-YEAR FLOODPLAINS

Earthen fill or construction of any barrier that changes elevations or potentially impedes floodwater flow within a 100-year floodplain is subject to approval and/or permit from the appropriate federal, state or local agency with jurisdiction for floodplain management.

Barriers, such as fences, will be placed so that potential damage from ice movement will not damage or destroy them.

NOTE: Individual programs may have different or more restrictive criteria than shown here. Refer to the program manual for specific programmatic requirements.

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Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the MN Natural Resources Conservation Service in your area or download it from the electronic Field Office Technical Guide for Minnesota.

CONSIDERATIONS

Manage the land behind the fence. Proper management such as a grazing or haying plan, forest management plan or other vegetative or livestock management activity that supports good land management in the “controlled” area is expected (e.g. management activities that result in reducing the threat of invasive species in the “controlled” area).

Even though usage of the area is monitored and controlled, the land manager and/or tenant should be advised about emergency preparedness agencies and related information, e.g., the local fire/wildfire control agency and pumper truck water sources on or near the area (among other possible equipment resources). Information should be designated initially and re-designated annually.

Use the concepts of landscape level planning to limit potential liability to the planning agency and the landowner. Review safety, health, legal and public relation issues as appropriate to avoid potential problems for the landowner, tenants or other land users.

When establishing fences or barriers along forested areas, place the structure beyond the expected mature tree canopy to reduce maintenance and repair from falling limbs.

Limit interference with wildlife migration corridors when placing barriers. For wildlife purposes use NRCS Conservation Practice Standards, Hedgerow Planting (422), Upland Wildlife Habitat Establishment (645) or another wildlife practice as appropriate to meet water, cover or forage needs.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each area and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or another acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities will be performed routinely and at least annually with changes made to specifications and operation and maintenance requirements as necessary.

Modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained.

REFERENCES

- Gucinski, H.; M.J. Furniss, R.R. Ziemer, M.H. Brookes. 2001. Forest Roads: a synthesis of scientific information. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-509. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2003. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC.
- http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1r2/pdf_index.htm