Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

ACCESS CONTROL

CODE 472

(ac)

DEFINITION

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

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish the following purpose–

- Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and 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

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers, permits) must 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.

Each activity or measure will identify the entity to be monitored and regulated (animals, people, vehicles, and 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) must be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

When flash grazing is allowed in riparian areas, it must be performed during low-risk times when soil moisture levels are low, plant cover is abundant, and plants are not emerging or setting seed. Also, flash grazing must only be allowed for a short period of time, which must not exceed a forty-eight-hour period. The height of forage residues following grazing should be based on environmental conditions and plant species. The forage residue stubble height must not be less than four inches.

CONSIDERATIONS

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. Information should be designated initially and redesignated annually.

NRCS reviews and periodically updates conservation practice standards. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service State office or visit the Field Office Technical Guide online by going to the NRCS website at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ and type FOTG in the search field.

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PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

When the practice will be implemented to allow controlled access to environmentally sensitive areas as a periodic forage grazing management technique for livestock, the specifications for livestock type, livestock number, access timing, forage amounts, grazing duration, forage composition, and allowable grazing heights must be prepared for each area in order to ensure that no resource concern results.

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 if 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. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Portland, OR.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2009. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC. https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/pdf_index.htm.