United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

ACCESS CONTROL

CODE 472

(ac)

DEFINITION

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or 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/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

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

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.

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.

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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Criteria Applicable to Livestock Access Control:

Fencing is the usual method of excluding livestock. See Alabama NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Fence, Code 382 for details of constructing fences.

1. Permanent exclusion of domesticated livestock will generally be required for the following conditions:
   - Crop fields during the growing season of the desired crops or until the crop are ready to be grazed.
   - A Filter Strip or Riparian Forest Buffer planted along streams to protect water quality. See Alabama Conservation Practice Standards, Filter Strip, Code 393 and Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 for details.
   - Timber managed for hardwood production where hardwood seedlings and saplings can be damaged by browsing animals.
   - All areas where severe erosion is occurring or has the potential to occur. Exclusion is essential on all areas where plantings are made for erosion control.
   - Wildlife plantings. Individual plantings should be fenced to exclude domestic livestock and any areas managed exclusively for wildlife.
   - Areas used for recreation and/or esthetics if the presence of livestock has the potential to interfere with recreation or damage the esthetics of the area.
   - Other conditions where livestock exclusion should apply as a part of a prescribed grazing system include:
   - Wetland areas that have permanent water or are flooded for several weeks during the year.
   - Farm ponds. Livestock watering facility and other practices in addition to fencing may be needed.
   - Where streams have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria.
2. Exclusion of livestock shall be required for the specified period for the following conditions:
   - Pine Plantings – at least until second growing season when light or moderate grazing is acceptable. Goats and sheep should be excluded from pine plantings until the trees are 6 to 8 feet in height.
   - Critical Area Treatment – 2 years from the date of establishment or until vegetation becomes well established.
   - Other areas where ground cover is not adequate to protect soil erosion within acceptable limits – time may vary from a minimum of one year to several years.

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 re-designated annually.

If installation or maintenance of the practice has potential of affecting cultural resources (Archaeological, historic, historic landscape, or traditional cultural properties), follow Alabama's state policy for considering cultural resources.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each area and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, maps, and narrative statements in the conservation

plan, or other 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. Repairs to barriers will be made as needed.

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

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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