

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

FENCE

(Feet)

CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people

PURPOSE

This practice is applied to facilitate the application of conservation practices by providing a means to control movement of animals and people.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where management of animal or people movement is needed. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Fencing materials, type and design of fence installed shall be of high quality and durability. The type and design will meet the management objectives and topographic challenges of the site.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements. The fence design and installation shall follow all Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

Height, size, spacing and type of materials used will provide the desired control and management of the animal(s) and people of concern.

CONSIDERATIONS

The fence design and location should consider topography, soil properties, safety and management of livestock, wildlife movement, location and adequacy of water facilities.

Consider installing fences in locations that will facilitate maintenance avoiding irregular terrain and/or water crossings.

Consider soil erosion potential when planning construction of a fence on steep slopes.

Consider wildlife movement needs when locating fences.

Consider livestock management, handling, watering and feeding needs when locating fences.

Where applicable, cleared right-of-ways should be established to facilitate fence construction and maintenance.

Consider introducing animals to electric fencing in a designated training facility. Select a well fenced area and construct an electric fence. Normally, a minimum 12 hour exposure to the electric fence is required. Most animals will be trained in 48 hours.

To facilitate better management, locate fences on boundaries between ecological sites, forage suitability groups, or other significant delineations when possible.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific field sites based on this standard. Plans and specifications for installing fences shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve all of its intended purposes.

The Colorado NRCS Permanent Fence Construction Job sheet will be used for applying this practice.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an on-going maintenance program. Inspection of fences after storm events is necessary to insure the continued proper function of the fence.

Maintenance and repairs will be performed as needed to facilitate the intended operation of the installed fence. This includes the prevention of growth or removal of woody vegetation in the fence.

Retain and properly discard all broken fencing material and hardware. All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of construction and maintenance crews.

REFERENCES

Fences, Second Printing. February 1999. Vegetative Rehabilitation and Equipment Workshop. 5E42D31-Range Structural Equipment