

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

**ACCESS CONTROL**  
(Acre)  
CODE 472



intended purpose. For example, fences constructed to mark property boundaries adjacent to CRP land may serve as suitable barriers, provided they restrict access by domestic livestock.

Constructed barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people.

Barriers shall be constructed in a manner that will not create a safety hazard.

Barrier type and design shall account for and minimize impacts that may impair wildlife health and animal movement, unless exclusion of wildlife is necessary to achieve the intended purpose.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Fences constructed to serve as barriers for human and animals shall be planned and constructed in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Fence, Code 382. Existing fences and other barriers may be used provided they are located and constructed in a manner that serves the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

Planning and implementation of this practice shall comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

**DEFINITION**

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

**PURPOSES**

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**

Barriers shall be constructed as needed to accomplish the intended purpose.

Existing barriers shall be used where practicable, provided they are constructed and maintained in a manner that will achieve the

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Impact to cultural resources, wetlands and Federal and State protected species shall be evaluated and avoided or minimized to the extent practicable during planning, design and implementation of this conservation practice in accordance with established National and Florida NRCS policy, General Manual (GM) Title 420-Part 401; Title 450-Part 401, Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26), and National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) FL Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6, National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH), and The National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH).

All necessary permits and letters of exemption shall be obtained prior to implementation of this practice.

Site specific practice effects shall be evaluated for the practice in accordance with guidance information contained in the NPPH, and Sections III and V of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

#### **Additional Criteria for Permanent Livestock Exclusion**

Permanent exclusion of domesticated livestock will generally be required for the following conditions.

- Alluvial soils and other areas where hardwood tree species are to be managed for wood production.
- Sink holes, steep embankments and other areas where injury to livestock is likely.
- Recreation areas such as camping, picnicking, swimming or other areas.
- Wildlife food and cover plots.
- Wooded areas managed exclusively for wildlife.
- Protection of other conservation practices, e.g. waste storage facilities, manure transfer components, and conservation buffers.
- Areas enrolled in conservation programs which preclude or limit grazing by domestic animals such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

#### **Additional Criteria for Use of Livestock Exclusion in Conjunction with a Prescribed Grazing System**

An on-site evaluation shall be conducted to identify the need for livestock exclusions to be applied as a part of and in conjunction with a prescribed grazing system. Conditions where livestock exclusions may be necessary include:

- Perennial and intermittent streams and their corridors where livestock activities may cause excessive damage to riparian vegetation, stream banks or stream stability.
- Permanent or seasonally flooded areas.
- Farm ponds that are adversely impacted by animal activities, such as bank erosion or degraded water quality.
- Streams, canals and other water bodies that have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria.

In the event that this practice is implemented in a manner that reduces or eliminates livestock access to sources of drinking water; alternative water sources shall be provided.

A harvest and grazing management system shall be implemented in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standards, Forage Harvest Management, Code 511, and Prescribed Grazing, Code 528, to maintain the health and vigor of the plant community. Refer to the National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRHP) for guidance on developing grazing management plans.

#### **Additional Criteria for Use of Temporary Livestock Exclusion**

Exclusion of livestock will be required for the specified period for the following conditions:

- Pine plantations – livestock shall be excluded from a newly established stand until the terminal bud of the mainstem is above the normal browse line. Normally this requires an exclusion of 2 to 5 years after establishment or as otherwise specified in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612.
- Critical Area Planting – livestock shall be excluded from the planted area for one (1)

full growing season following planting. The exclusion period may be extended as needed to ensure the vegetation and site conditions are stable enough to permit livestock activities. Periodic grazing of the planted area may be allowed after the vegetation is well established provided the following conditions are met:

- No more than 40% of the annual production may be removed.
- Individual grazing periods do not exceed seven (7) consecutive days.
- Recovery periods between grazing events will be a minimum of 21 days consecutive during the growing season and 42 consecutive days during the dormant season.
- In areas where establishment of riparian forest or riparian herbaceous buffers along perennial and intermittent streams is desired. The animals shall be excluded as specified in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard, Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 or Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, Code 390.
- In areas where ground cover is not adequate to protect soil erosion within acceptable limits. The livestock exclusion period will be dependant upon site conditions, plant characteristics and climatic events. Consequently, the exclusion period may range from a minimum of one year to several years.
- Area treated with conservation practices to reduce or eliminate the height, density or cover of target species. These Florida NRCS conservation practices include Brush Management, Code 314, Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment, Code 548, Pest Management, Code 595, and Prescribed Burning, Code 338. The length of the exclusion shall meet the specifications of the applicable Florida NRCS conservation practice standard.
- Areas where permanent or temporary food and/or cover plots for wildlife are established. The length of the exclusion period for domestic livestock shall at a minimum extend 120 days from the planting date or otherwise specified in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Upland

Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 644.

A harvest and grazing management system shall be implemented in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standards, Forage Harvest Management, Code 511, and Prescribed Grazing, Code 528, to maintain the health and vigor of the plant community. Refer to the National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRHP) for guidance on developing grazing management plans.

In the event that this practice is implemented in a manner that reduces or eliminates livestock access to sources of drinking water; alternative water sources shall be provided.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Assess status of landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Construction of additional conservation practices may be required to facilitate the implementation of this practice. The facilitating practices include but are not limited to fences, livestock/wildlife watering facilities, stream crossings, and other component practices.

Public use should be considered in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barriers should account for and minimize public safety activities such as fire control.

In addressing water quantity, consider:

- Effects on the water budget, especially on runoff, infiltration, transpiration, deep percolation, and ground water recharge.
- Effects of changes in vegetative growth on soil moisture.
- Effects of the changes in organic matter on the soil water holding capacity.
- Effects on downstream flow from the area.
- Effects on the interflow conditions.

In addressing water quality, consider:

- Effects of vegetation on the movement of sediment and dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

- Effects on erosion, sediment, pathogens, soluble and sediment-attached materials.
- Effects on the visual quality of downstream water resources.
- Short term and construction-related effects on surface and ground water.
- Effects on wetlands and aquatic wildlife habitats.

### PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

The landowner/manager shall be provided detailed specifications in a site-specific job sheet, or in the practice narrative of the conservation plan for implementation of this practice.

These plans and specifications shall be consistent with this standard and other applicable reference material.

At a minimum the plans and specifications shall include:

1. Size and location of the area to be excluded. The location of the Use Exclusion shall be shown on the conservation plan map.
2. Purpose(s) for the exclusion.
3. Length of the exclusion.
4. Type of barrier to be constructed. This shall include the specifications necessary to construct a barrier that will accomplish the intended purpose.
5. Date and method of construction.
6. Type of land preparation required for construction.
7. Conditions that must be met in order for the exclusion to be removed.
8. Operation and maintenance requirements.

### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

**Operation:** Prevent animals, people, or vehicle entry into the treatment area for the prescribed period of time.

**Maintenance:** Barriers will be periodically inspected on an annual or more frequent basis. Repairs will be performed as needed.

### REFERENCES

National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH)

National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH)

Florida NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Critical Area Planting, Code 342

Brush Management, Code 314

Fence, Code 382

Forage Harvest Management, Code 511

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment, Code 548

Pest Management, Code 595

Pond, Code 378

Prescribed Grazing, Code 528

Prescribed Burning, Code 338

Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391,

Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, Code 390,

Stream Crossing, Code 578

Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612,

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645

Watering Facility, Code 614

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 644

NRCS General Manual (GM)

Title 190, Part 410.22-Procedures for NRCS Assisted Programs

Title 190, Part 410.26-Protection of Wetlands

Title 420, Part 401-Cultural Resources

Title 450, Part 401-Technical Guides

National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH)

FL Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6

NRCS Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH), 1997

NRCS Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH), Revision 1, 2003