

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

USE EXCLUSION

(Acre)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

Excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area.

PURPOSES

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources, e.g., road and trail closure, seasonal or permanent livestock exclusion, and wildlife exclusion.

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to minimize human health, liability, and safety concerns, e.g., recreational access, hazardous areas, and safety zones.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed.

CRITERIA

Barriers may consist of both natural and 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 and not be a safety hazard.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

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

Comply with applicable laws and regulations.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design may impair wildlife health and movement.

Barriers may hinder public safety activities such as fire control.

To prevent accidents, mark barriers with bright reflective paint or signs where appropriate.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.