

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**ACCESS CONTROL**

(Ac.)

**CODE 472**

**DEFINITION**

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

**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.

- Prevent, restrict, or control access to an area
- Maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources
- Minimize liability and human health concerns

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice applies on all land uses.

**CRITERIA**

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.

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.

Adequate warnings or markings will be displayed where there is potential danger with the use of a barrier.

Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulation during the installation, operation, and maintenance of this practice.

**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.

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

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 should minimize impacts to non-targeted wildlife, animal movement, and human health.

Minimize barriers impacts on public safety activities such as fire control.

Consider the effects of installation of barriers and fences on the integrity of subsurface cultural resources (including compaction). Also, consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion due to livestock and vehicle traffic.

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

For fencing specifications, refer to electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) Section IV, Construction Specification 382, Fence.

For living fences of trees or shrubs, refer to eFOTG Section IV, Construction Specification 422, Hedgerow Planting.

### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each area 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**

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 as long as resource conditions are maintained.

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

### **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. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

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