

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

USE EXCLUSION

(Ac.)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

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

PURPOSE

- 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

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 regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

CONSIDERATIONS

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.

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

Minimize barriers impact 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.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Contact Sally Butler at 207-990-9557 or email sally.butler@me.usda.gov

using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

All categories of exclusion require the following design documentation:

1. Landowner and Design Preparer name and address
2. Property Location, including town and county, and NRCS Field Office
3. Practice name, code, amount, estimated cost, and time schedule.
4. Description of specific work to be performed and its location and size, as well as written instructions for contractor and /or owner.
5. Maps of property and practice locations, including a lat/long for boundary corners and practices.
6. Legal obligations, including property tax status and required permits if needed.

The Use Exclusion practice design, installation and checkout shall include detailed written description, map and practice layout, modifications and as-builts including:

1. Location of use exclusion(s) (Lat./ Long.)
2. Total acreage proposed and as-built that is excluded
3. Detailed specifications, modifications and as-builts including category of exclusion and whether it is a permanent or temporary exclusion. If temporary, specify dates. Document method of exclusion including type and dimensions and any operation and maintenance requirements.

4. Specifications for the protection of other natural resources including but not limited to water, soil, wildlife, and non-target plants.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed. Landowner should also be sure that adequate warnings and markings are still displayed where there is potential danger from the barrier.