

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MONTANA CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

ACCESS CONTROL (ACRE)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

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

shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

The method, duration, and time of exclusion and the reason(s) for exclusion shall be identified.

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.

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 re-designated annually.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all land uses.

Use access control when (but not limited to):

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.

1. **Protection is needed from motorized vehicles to control erosion on fragile sites such as sandy or wet sites.**
2. **Limiting access to steep areas for safety and controlling erosion.**
3. **Managing livestock grazing for specified periods following the use of accelerating practices such as mechanical treatment, brush management, and seeding.**
4. **Livestock grazing is prohibited or undesirable.**
5. **Improving the condition on low ecological sites by excluding livestock/wildlife grazing for specified periods.**
6. **Managing areas that have a concentration of poisonous plants.**
7. **Areas pose a threat to the health of livestock and/or people such as heavy metal sites.**

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)

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

NOTE: This type of font (**AaBbCcDdEe 123..**) indicates NRCS National Standards.
This type of font (**AaBbCcDdEe 123..**) indicates Montana Supplement.

8. **Controlling access to field evaluation plantings or vegetative study areas.**

9. **Protecting springs and reservoirs.**

10. **Limiting access around mine shafts or abandoned wells.**

11. **Protecting shelterbelts, windbreaks, gardens and orchards.**

12. **Controlling use of an area by people and vehicles.**

Consider the effects of use-regulating activities on cultural resources.

Utilize natural features, i.e., when possible—sandstone ridges/bluffs, when designing the use-regulating measures.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

As a minimum, the Access Control practice will have the following components in its plan and specifications:

- **A narrative that describes the producer's goals and objectives. Identify why the practice is needed and feasible.**
- **An environmental assessment of the planned practice that includes the potential impacts on soil, water, animals, plants, air and humans.**
- **An alternatives narrative that identifies and describes several methods that could**

be used to address the resource issue. Also identifying the producer's selected method.

- **The Montana Access Control practice job sheet and specification.**
- **Plan map and soil map of site with location of practice on the map.**
- **Operations and maintenance instructions.**

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.

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.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2003. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC. http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1r2/pdf_index.htm