

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

**USE EXCLUSION**

**(Acre)**

**CODE 472**

**DEFINITION**

Excluding animals, people or vehicles from an area.

**PURPOSE**

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources or minimize liability and human health concerns.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

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

**CRITERIA**

1. 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.
2. Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.
3. Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.
4. Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.
5. 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.
6. Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.
2. Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.
3. Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement.
4. Barriers should account for and minimize public safety activities such as fire control.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved job sheets, technical notes, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. The minimum documentation for this practice is outlined on the last page of this standard.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

**REFERENCES:**

National Standard Use Exclusion (472), August 2000  
Jobsheet 472

<b>Practice Documentation For:</b>	<i>Use Exclusion - 472</i>
<b>The following documentation must be in the case folder or engineering subfolder.</b>	
<b>Practice Planning</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the practice part of a conservation plan?</li> <li>2. Have the purpose(s) for the practice been identified?</li> <li>3. Is the location of the practice identified on a map or plan drawing?</li> </ol>	
<b>Practice Design</b>	
<p>Have the following design criteria been addressed?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Type of barrier needed to meet objectives.</li> <li>2. Barrier life expectancy.</li> <li>3. Location within the field or farm boundary</li> <li>4. Exclusion times or periods.</li> </ol>	
<b>Practice Installation / Application</b>	
Does the practice meet the minimum criteria for the planned purpose(s)?	
<p>Have the following criteria been documented in the assistance notes or practice jobsheet?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Type of barrier established.</li> <li>2. Quality of barrier established.</li> <li>3. Acres protected.</li> </ol>	
<b>Practice Deficiencies</b>	
If applicable, have the practice deficiencies been communicated with the decisionmaker?	
<b>Practice Maintenance</b>	
<p>Have the following maintenance actions been communicated to the decisionmaker?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Barrier inspections schedule.</li> <li>2. Barrier repair.</li> </ol>	
<b>Other Comments:</b>	