

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
VIRGINIA 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 where human and animal health and safety hazards are present.

and

Areas where vegetation, maintenance, soil condition, water, air quality, wildlife or aesthetic values are in need of protection.

**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.

**Additional Criteria for Livestock Exclusion**

Livestock shall be permanently excluded from areas where forest products, and/or fish and wildlife are the primary use.

This standard is not to be used a substitute for the fence (382) standard, when a fence is a required component of a management system.

When using a fence with Use Exclusion, refer to the Fence (382) standard for required criteria

**CONSIDERATIONS**

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

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.

Consider permanent protection to wet areas and areas susceptible to critical erosion.

Exclude livestock from riparian areas of perennial and intermittent streams where livestock may cause excessive damage to riparian vegetation,

Exclude livestock from streams that have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria.

In agroforestry operations, livestock should be excluded from tree plantings during vulnerable periods. Consider fencing and seasonal use exclusion to reduce damage to young seedlings.

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.

### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using the VA Job Sheet. and / or a narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

An operation and maintenance requirements plan for Use Exclusion (code 472) will be completed.

### **REFERENCES**

National Standard Use Exclusion (472), May 2005

NRCS, Virginia Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV

USDA NRCS, Agroforestry Notes - Silvopasture #1, Silvopasture: An Agroforestry Practice, November 1997

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