

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS

(Ft.)

CODE 575

DEFINITION

A travel facility for livestock and/or wildlife to provide movement through difficult or ecologically sensitive terrain.

Trails or walkways seeded or planted to vegetative cover will be protected from grazing until planting material is fully established and capable of withstanding grazing and/or trampling.

PURPOSES

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Provide or improve access to forage, water and/or shelter
- Improve grazing efficiency and distribution
- Divert travel away from ecologically sensitive and/or erosive sites

Criteria Applicable for Walkways.

Walkways will be constructed to meet minimum height requirements above normal high water.

During the construction process of walkways, borrow pits will be staggered so that access to grazing areas and back to walkway will be available from either side.

When necessary structures will be installed to prevent interference with natural water movement or to control saltwater intrusion.

CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

On grazing lands where animal movement is impeded or restricted such as steep rough terrain, across rock outcrops, through dense timber or brush, over lava beds, on marsh rangelands, and grazing lands susceptible to overflow by water.

CONSIDERATIONS

Other practices that facilitate grazing distribution and proper intensity such as prescribed grazing should be implemented along with this practice.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable for All the Purposes Stated Above.

Trails or walkways shall be constructed wide enough to accommodate movement of livestock and access by operator.

Trails or walkways shall be constructed in such a manner that accelerated erosion will not occur. Where necessary diversions with a safe outlet will be provided.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Each trail or walkway shall have a site specific design based on the criteria in this standard and as supplemented by additional criteria developed by each individual State using this practice.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation will consist of periodic grading or shaping on trails and walkways to maintain designed dimensions. Maintenance will consist of repair that may be needed following major storm events such as high runoff events, high tides or other occurrences that cause damage and interfere in the normal operation of this practice.

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