

**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 to minimize liability and human health concerns.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

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

**CRITERIA**

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.

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.

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.

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

**ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION**

Permanent exclusion of domesticated livestock will generally be required for the following conditions:

- Forested areas where primary management is for wood production
- Recreation areas such as camping, picnicking, swimming or other areas
- Wildlife food and cover plots
- Wooded areas managed exclusively for wildlife
- Manure and wastewater storage and handling facilities

Other considerations are such that livestock exclusion should be applied as a part of, and in conjunction with a prescribed grazing system. Such conditions include:

- Perennial and intermittent streams and their corridors where livestock may cause excessive damage to riparian vegetation, streambanks, or stream stability. Livestock watering facilities and other component practices in addition to fencing may be required
- Wetland areas that have permanent water or are flooded for several weeks during the year
- Farm ponds. Livestock watering facilities and other practices in addition to fencing may be required
- Where streams have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria

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

Exclusion of livestock will be required for the specified period for the following conditions:

- Critical Area Treatment – 2 years from the date of establishment or until vegetation becomes well established, followed by Forage Harvest Management when grazing is allowed
- Where the establishment of riparian forest buffers along perennial and intermittent streams is desired
- Other areas where ground cover is not adequate to protect soil erosion within acceptable limits – time may vary from one to several years

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

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 account for and minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement.

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

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

### **REFERENCES**

NRCS Conservation Practice Standards

- Practice Code 382 – Fence
- Practice Code 528A – Prescribed Grazing
- Practice Code 378 – Pond
- Practice Code 614 – Trough or Tank
- Practice Code 516 – Pipeline
- Practice Code 511 – Forage Harvest Management
- Practice Code 313 – Waste Storage Facility