

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
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.

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.

CONSIDERATIONS

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.

Barrier type and design should minimize impacts to non-targeted wildlife, animal movement and human health.

Minimize barrier 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 (including compaction).

Consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion due to livestock and vehicle traffic.

Consider using living barriers of trees or shrubs to limit human access.

Consider arranging fields for livestock exclusion, e.g., unfenced woodland adjoining cropland or a highway.

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.

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