NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FENCE

(Ft.)

CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people.

PURPOSE

This practice is applied to facilitate the application of conservation practices by providing a means to control movement of animals and people.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where management of animal or people movement is needed. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Fencing materials, type and design of fence installed shall be of a high quality and durability. The type and design of fence installed will meet the management objectives and topographic challenges of the site.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements. The fence design and installation shall follow all federal, State and local laws and regulations.

Height, size, spacing, and type of materials used will provide the desired control and management of animal and people of concern.

CONSIDERATIONS

The fence design and location should consider: topography, soil properties, safety and management of livestock, wildlife movement, location and adequacy of water facilities, development of potential grazing systems, human access, landscape aesthetics, erosion problems, moisture conditions, flooding potential, stream crossings, and durability of materials.

Where applicable, cleared rights-of-way may be established which would facilitate fence construction and maintenance

Fences across gullies, canyons, or streams may require special bracing, designs or approaches.

Fence design and location should consider ease of access for construction, repair and maintenance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific sites based on this standard.

Plans and specifications for installing fences shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve all of its intended purposes.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an ongoing maintenance program. Inspection of fences after storm events is necessary to insure the continued proper function of the fence. Maintenance and repairs will be performed in a timely manner as needed.

Retain and properly discard all broken fencing material and hardware. All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of construction and maintenance crews.

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