

Access Control (Ac) 472

DEFINITION

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

PURPOSES

Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment in coordination with the application schedule of practices, measures and activities specified in the conservation plan.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all land uses where permanent or temporary *access control* is needed, including areas where vegetation, soil condition, water *quality*, air quality, wildlife or aesthetic values are in need of protection.

This practice is also applicable in areas where human or animal health and safety hazards are present.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

- *Use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers, permits) shall achieve the intended purpose and include mitigating associated resource concerns to acceptable levels during their installation, operation, and maintenance. Activities will complement the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.*
- *Each activity or measure will identify the entity to be monitored and regulated (animals, people, vehicles and/or equipment) and specify the intent, intensity, amounts, and timing of*

exclusion by that entity. Activities may involve temporary to permanent exclusion of one to all entities.

- *Placement, location, dimensions and materials (e.g., signs, gates), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates) shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.*
- *Constructed barriers can be of natural or artificial materials such as logs, vegetation, topography, permanent water courses, field boundaries, earth fill, boulders, gates or signs.*
- *Fence barriers will comply with NRCS Standard Fence (382).*
- *Barriers consisting of trees and/or shrubs will comply with NRCS Standard Hedgerow Planting (422).*
- If vegetative barriers are used, use native species where practicable in order to: reduce the introduction of invasive plant species; provide management of existing invasive species; and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species may cause.
- Do not use known invasive species. Refer to the Michigan Field Office Technical Guide, Section I, Invasive Plant Species, for plant materials identified as invasive species.
- Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.
- Soil will be stabilized to prevent erosion and sedimentation during implementation of this practice. See NRCS Standard Critical Area Planting (342).
- Use of this standard will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

CONSIDERATIONS

- When placing barriers, give consideration to the potential liability to the planning agency or the land user based on safety, health, and public relations.

- *When establishing fences or barriers along forested areas, place the structure beyond the expected mature tree canopy to reduce maintenance and repair from falling limbs.*
- *Limit interference with wildlife travel corridors when placing barriers. For wildlife purposes use NRCS Standards Hedgerow Planting (422), Upland Wildlife Habitat Establishment (645) or another wildlife practice as appropriate to meet wildlife habitat needs.*

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. These documents will specify the requirements for installing the practice(s), the kind and amount of materials needed, and the sequence or timing of the installation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities will be performed routinely and at least annually with changes made to specifications and operation and maintenance requirements as necessary.

Modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained.

REFERENCES

Gucinski, H.; M.J. Furniss, R.R. Ziemer, M.H. Brookes. 2001. Forest roads: a synthesis of scientific information. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-509. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2003. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC.

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1r2/pdf_index.htm