

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
VIRGINIA CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

ACCESS CONTROL

(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:

- Where human and animal health and safety hazards are present.
- Where vegetation, maintenance, soil condition, water, air quality, wildlife or aesthetic values are in need of protection.

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.

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

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR LIVESTOCK EXCLUSION

Livestock shall be permanently excluded from areas where forest products, and/or fish and wildlife are the primary goals.

This standard is not to be used as a substitute for the Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Fence (Code 382)*, when a fence is a required component of a management system.

When using a fence with Access Control, refer to the Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Fence (Code 382)* for required criteria.

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.

Exclude livestock from perennial and intermittent streams and their corridors where livestock may cause excessive damage to riparian vegetation or streambanks.

Exclude livestock from streams that have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria.

In agroforestry operations, livestock should be excluded from tree plantings during vulnerable

periods. Consider fencing and seasonal use exclusion to reduce damage to young seedlings.

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

Minimize barriers impact 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). Also consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion due to livestock and vehicle traffic.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using the VA Job Sheet and/or a narrative statement in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers will be periodically inspected and repairs performed as needed.

An operation and maintenance requirements plan for Access Control (472) will be completed.

REFERENCES

National Standard Access Control (472) May 2008

NRCS, Virginia Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV

USDA NRCS, Agroforestry Notes - Silvopasture #1, Silvopasture: An Agroforestry Practice, November 1997

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