NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

ACCESS CONTROL - DRAFT

(Ac.)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

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

PURPOSE

1. To prevent access to an area (e.g., sensitive areas and/or hazardous areas)

2. To manage the frequency and/or intensity of use to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on all land uses where a temporary or permanent barrier is needed to control access to an area. It is applicable on sites where the soil, vegetation, other natural resources, structures or facilities need to be protected from uncontrolled access by animals (including livestock) or human activities. The excluded or controlled area is the location where the practice is applied. For example, access control may be used to exclude or limit livestock access to a stream corridor. This practice is also applicable where there are safety hazards to animals or people.

CRITERIA

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.

Barriers shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Note: *Specific cost-sharing programs or other funding sources may dictate criteria in addition to, or more restrictive than, those specified in this standard.*

CONSIDERATIONS

Assess the potential for landowner or user liability before installing barriers.

Consider the potential for soil erosion, especially when barriers will be constructed on steep slopes.

Consider the design of the barrier, and whether it might adversely affect wildlife health and animal movement.

Consider whether restricting public access may be an issue in areas where the right of access was previously established by past use and law.

Consider the need for access by public safety personnel, and assess whether the barrier will

unnecessarily restrict activities such as fire control and emergency rescue.

Identify and evaluate any other constraints such as management options, economic feasibility, state and federal regulations, or cost-share program requirements.

Use access control in agro forestry operations to exclude livestock from tree plantings during vulnerable periods. Consider fencing and seasonal use restrictions to reduce damage to young seedlings.

Consider using this practice to protect significant archaeological resources or cultural properties from damage.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS TO IMPLEMENT ACCESS CONTROL PRACTICE ASSOCIATED WITH STATE NUTRIENT APPLICATION REGULATIONS

State has established a nutrient application setback from the edge of surface water, including, perennial and intermittent streams on pastures and hayfields. Surface water will be protected from livestock traffic by structural barrier (e.g. Fence) or approved alternative best management practices (e.g. Prescribed Grazing).

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS TO IMPLEMENT FENCE AS ACCESS CONTROL PRACTICE AS SAFETY MEASURE AROUND WASTE STORAGE FACILITIES AND WASTE TREATMENT LAGOON

All wastes storage and/or treatment facilities shall be fenced with a "***Keep Out"*** signs posted to exclude humans and animals. A variety of gases can be generated in the operation of these structures that can cause asphyxiation, poisoning, and explosions.

Use access control to limit livestock access to streams/ponds and adjacent riparian zones to mitigate damage to stream banks, shorelines and riparian vegetation and to prevent future degradation.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for access control will be prepared for each site or management unit according to the Considerations, Criteria, and Operation and Maintenance described in this standard. They will be recorded on appropriate job sheet, narrative statements in conservation plans, or other acceptable documentation.

When this practice is used in combination with another practice (e.g., fence, hedgerow), plans and specifications will meet the requirements of this standard and the other applicable standard to achieve the intended purpose of controlling access. The completed work will be checked and documented to verify that the practice was completed according to the appropriate drawings and specifications of both standards. Documentation shall be in accordance with the section "Supporting Data and Documentation" in both standards.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance (O&M) plan shall be prepared for each access control project. Appropriate Job Sheet(s) may be used to serve as the management plan as well as supporting documentation, and shall be provided to the client. At a minimum, the following components shall be addressed in the O&M plan, as applicable:

1. Frequency of monitoring and inspection. At a minimum, require annual inspection of the access control measures;

2. Take corrective actions as needed to replace damaged barriers;

3. Where control efforts have failed, reassess the need for additional measures to manage or exclude use.

SUPPORTING DATA AND DOCUMENTATION

The following is a list of the minimum data and documentation to be recorded in the case file:

1. Field location and extent of access control in acres. Also note the location of the practice on the conservation plan map;

2. Assistance notes documenting why the practice is needed (i.e., what the problem is, what will be protected, etc.), dates of site visits, discussions with the client, decisions made, and by whom;

3. Completed copy of the appropriate Job Sheet(s), drawings, or other specifications, and management plans. The following items shall be addressed, as appropriate:

A. Types of materials, quantities, and methods of installation to be used;

B. Final quantities, and documentation for any quantity changes. Include materials certification when requested.

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

Virginia Cooperative Extension 1999. Alternatives to fencing out cattle out of streams Available at: http://www.sites.ext.vt.edu/newsletter-archive/dairy/1999-06/streams.html (verified 3 December 2013). Roanoke, VA

Ohio State University Extension. Best Management Practices to Control the Effects of Livestock Grazing Riparian Areas. Available at: http://ohioline.osu.edu/ls-fact/pdf/0004.pdf (verified 3 December 2013). Columbus, OH.