

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**ACCESS CONTROL
(Acre)
CODE 472**

DEFINITION

Excluding animals, people or vehicles from an area.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and not be a safety hazard.

PURPOSES

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to maintain or improve the quantity and quality of natural resources, e.g., road and trail closure, seasonal or permanent livestock exclusion, and wildlife exclusion.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

To prevent, restrict, or control access to an area to minimize liability and safety concerns, e.g., recreational access, hazardous areas, safety zones.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Use exclusion will be planned on all land uses where permanent or temporary use exclusion is needed. Examples of practices that require Use Exclusion are grass planting, tree planting and buffer practices.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assess potential landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

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 may impair wildlife health and movement at a time when wildlife exclusion is not an objective.

CRITERIA

Barriers will consist of natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences – both conventional and electric, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers may hinder public safety activities such as fire control. Alternate routes will be available in these cases.

To prevent accidents, mark barriers with bright reflective paint or signs where appropriate.

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

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. See Texas standard for Fence (code 382).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Barriers should be inspected periodically and repairs performed as needed.

**NRCS - TX
February 12,
2018**