

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

ACCESS CONTROL

(Ac.)

CODE 472

PLANNING

Identify and document:

- Size of area being impacted by the exclusion practice
- Natural Resource Concern that is being addressed.
- Specific target for exclusion, times for exclusion and for allowable access.
- Safety concerns before installation and safety considerations after implementation.

Design

A specific design will be prepared for each "Use Exclusion" application since each situation is unique, and exclusion alternatives will be dependant on site, material availability, resource concern being addressed.

Supporting practices are an integral part of a well planned exclusion practice. Use the appropriate standard and specification for the supporting practices.

FENCING, ELECTRONIC AND SONIC DEVICES

Fences used as part of this practice are to be established according to the Fence AK-382 Standard and Specification. Fence types not listed in this standard will be considered barrier and will be installed according to recommendations of the manufacturer and approved by the appropriate resource discipline lead for that standard. The use of electronic and sonic devices will also be installed according to

the manufactures recommendations and approved by the state resource forester.

The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation has specifications for guard rails, bicycle fences and other mechanical obstructions. These specifications will meet the NRCS design needs; deviation from these specifications will need to be approved by the discipline lead for this practice.

SIGNS

Sign specifications vary from use to use. They should follow an international format seen below. The format is a square sign on a white back ground with a red circle with a diagonal red bar across the image. A sign will have a minimum area of 100 sq inches, be legible, in the appropriate language of the area and will have a life expectancy of 5 years or greater.

The Federal Highway Administration maintains the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices Found at the following web site

http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno-millennium_12.28.01.htm.



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

For non highway signs such as snowmobile and ATV's, signage formats are available through the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Location of signs- signs should be located on the right side of trails and roads as is the custom on most thoroughfares, when they pertain to the use of the access. For non-access (Exclusion) the sign is to be placed adjacent to the area being excluded from use.

Signs should be visible during the periods the use is being controlled. Account for snow depths both in for viewing in the winter and for when the signs are placed in the winter for summer use.

Alaska has no specific standards for posting land for no trespassing but a generally accepted practice is to use signs that are a minimum of 100 square inches and brightly colored with the excluded use or allowed use. They should be displayed at all corners of the property, at streams crossing, along property lines, roads, gates, and rights-of-way entering the land. Between property corners signs should be displayed as needed to identify the property use.

Berms, Dips and Other Soil Barriers.

All such barriers should be clearly seen as they are approached by the entity that is being excluded. Warning signs, gates, flags and other identifiers of these types of barriers are required if the barrier is hidden, or could cause injury if approached rapidly or approached without knowing the barrier is present.

Design of Berms-

Height of berm should be greater than the ground clearance of the vehicle that is being restricted and the bottom width of the berm should be less than the wheel base length of that same vehicle.

Dips, dug outs or 'tank traps' should be deeper than the ground clearance of the vehicle being excluded and the length of the dip (distance from the bottom of the dip to the top of one side of the depression) should not exceed the wheel base of the vehicle.

A combination of dip and berm can be used together to increase the efficiency of the practice.

Control erosion as needed utilizing the appropriate supporting practices when erosion may be a concern in establishing use exclusion.

Posts, Rock Barriers, Concrete Construction Barriers.

Safety concerns are paramount when using these means of exclusion. Barriers should be easily seen and identified; warning signs, light reflectors and paint should be present to increase the visibility of the barrier or warn of an approaching barrier. This would prevent/ minimize collisions and accidents. Consider using barriers that are collapsible with out causing harms to vehicle operators.

Place barriers so allowable uses are possible without causing a safety concern. Allow for accessible widths based on use and access. Widths for pedestrians can be narrower, while bicycle widths are wider, ATV, snowmobile and motorcycle access widths become even wider.

Consider allowing room for vehicle turn around when presented with a situation of no access.

Vegetation

Vegetation, either established or in place, can function as an effective barrier. Dense, branching habits or pruning to achieve dense growth can greatly improve vegetation effectiveness.

Select native plants when ever possible and utilize non-invasive exotics when native plants do not have the necessary exclusionary characteristics. Native plants that are suited for barriers are found in Table 1. Use the Tree and Shrub Establishment AK-612 specification and job sheet when using shrubs and trees for vegetation exclusion.

Table 1.

Species	Height	Comments
White and Lutz Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i> *	60 ft +	Easily pruned for height and density, easily established by natural regeneration, seedlings and transplants, slow growing. Restricts almost all use especially when planted on a 6 foot spacing and top pruned.
Green Alder, <i>Alnus crispa</i>	3-13 ft	Does well in poor soils, thick foliage but prevents ground cover from establishment, does not respond to pruning. Allows for pedestrian access but limits vehicular use.
Sitka Alder, <i>A. sinuata</i>	5-15 ft	
Mountain Ash <i>Sorbus sp.</i>	3-13ft	Valuable native ornamental, produces wildlife edible berries, heavily browsed by moose.
Red Ozier Dogwood, <i>Cornus stolonifera</i> ,	3-12 ft	Dense branching habit, does well in moist soils. Note range and distribution in Alaska for selecting planting sites, typically found in the interior.
Wood Rose <i>Rosa nupur</i>	2-5 ft	Fast growing rose, with prickly stems, aggressive root suckering, very effective for pedestrian control.
Prickly Rose <i>Rosa acicularis</i>	1-4 ft	
Devils Club <i>Oplopanax horridus</i>	3- 10 ft	Slow growing but very tenacious thorny shrub. Again very effective for pedestrian control
Rusty Menziesia <i>Menziesia ferruginea</i>	4 - 8 ft	Understory plant that become dense, does not tolerate pruning but is not browsed by moose.
Highbush Cranberry <i>Viburnum edule</i>	2-12 ft	Tall and fairly thin hedge if not planted in high stocking rates.
Siberian pea shrub <i>Caragana arborescens</i>	6 -12 ft.	Dense and rapid growth, but is an aggressive fast growing exotic, fixes nitrogen and does well in poor soils.
Willow, <i>Salix sp</i>	3 – 30 ft	Avoid felt leaf or barren ground willow for screens, Plan for the presence of moose especially if they are along side winter use trails

Silver berry, <i>Elaeagnus commutata</i>	3-5 feet	Can be pruned, keeps leaves through the winter dense
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