

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATION**

ACCESS CONTROL

(acre)

CODE 472

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Procedures, technical details, and other information listed below provide additional guidance for carrying out selected components of the named practice. This material is referenced from the conservation practice standard for the named practice and supplements the requirements and considerations listed therein.

METHODS

Access control is a management option by which landowners can protect areas from degradation by temporarily or permanently excluding animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be consistent with the specifications for the FENCE PRACTICE (382).

Access Control systems can be established on any land use. Typically, Access Control systems have been established to protect grass planting, tree planting or buffer practices.

Wildlife should be considered when planning Access Control systems. Controlling access to an area can greatly benefit wildlife and increase species

diversity. A wildlife food plot is an example of an area where livestock should be excluded.

Livestock should be excluded from young pine and hardwood plantings until the trees are large enough not to be damaged.

Livestock should be excluded from all areas with active sheet or gully erosion

Water quality should also be considered when planning Access Control systems for areas with water bodies present. Controlling access to a water body can greatly benefit water quality.

Considerations

Access Control is planned when livestock, humans, wildlife, etc., must be kept **OUT** of a controlled area. By comparison, the FENCE PRACTICE (382) is planned when livestock must be kept **IN** a controlled area.

Access control fences must meet NRCS fencing specifications.

Conservation plans that include Access Control can include items such as fence, gates, dirt barriers across roads, posted signs, and other components intended to exclude entry.

Generally, NRCS only cost-shares on the fence portion of access control in our conservation programs.