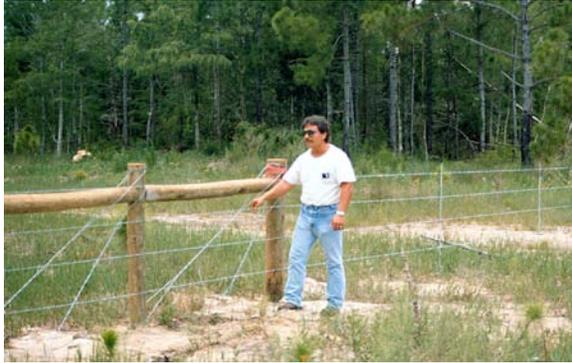


**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

ACCESS CONTROL

(Acre)
CODE 472



extent practicable during planning, design and implementation of this conservation practice in accordance with established National and Florida NRCS policy, General Manual (GM) Title 420-Part 401; Title 450-Part 401, Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26), and National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) FL Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6, National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH), and The National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH).

All necessary permits and letters of exemption shall be obtained prior to implementation of this practice.

Site specific practice effects shall be evaluated for the practice in accordance with guidance information contained in the NPPH, and Sections III and V of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

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)

DEFINITION

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

PURPOSES

Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment in coordination with the application schedule of practices, measures and activities specified in the conservation plan.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all land uses.

CRITERIA

Planning and implementation of this practice shall comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Impact to cultural resources, wetlands and Federal and State protected species shall be evaluated and avoided or minimized to the

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

shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

Existing barriers shall be used where practicable, provided they are constructed and maintained in a manner that will achieve the intended purpose. For example, fences constructed to mark property boundaries adjacent to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land may serve as suitable barriers, provided they restrict access by domestic livestock.

Constructed barriers shall consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people.

Barriers shall be constructed in a manner that will not create a safety hazard.

Barrier type and design shall account for and minimize impacts that may impair wildlife health and animal movement, unless exclusion of wildlife is necessary to achieve the intended purpose.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Fences constructed to serve as barriers for human and animals shall be planned and constructed in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Fence, Code 382.

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

To prevent accidents associated with the use of vehicles, barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability.

Additional Criteria for Permanent Livestock Exclusion

Permanent exclusion of domesticated livestock should be considered when the following conditions are present, but not limited to.

- Alluvial soils and other areas where hardwood tree species are to be managed for wood production.
- Sink holes, steep embankments and other areas where injury to livestock is likely.
- Recreation areas such as camping, picnicking, swimming or other areas.
- Wildlife food and cover plots.
- Wooded areas managed exclusively for wildlife.
- Protection of other conservation practices, e.g. waste storage facilities, manure transfer components, and conservation buffers.
- Areas enrolled in conservation programs which preclude or limit grazing by domestic animals such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).

Additional Criteria for Use of Livestock Exclusion in Conjunction with a Prescribed Grazing System

An on-site evaluation shall be conducted to identify the need for livestock exclusions to be applied as a part of and in conjunction with a prescribed grazing system. Conditions where livestock exclusions may be necessary include:

- Perennial and intermittent streams and their corridors where livestock activities may cause excessive damage to riparian vegetation, stream banks or stream stability.
- Permanent or seasonally flooded areas.
- Farm ponds that are adversely impacted by animal activities, such as bank erosion or degraded water quality.
- Streams, canals and other water bodies that have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria.

In the event that this practice is implemented in a manner that reduces or eliminates livestock access to sources of drinking water; alternative water sources shall be provided.

A harvest and grazing management system shall be implemented in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standards, Forage Harvest Management, Code 511, and Prescribed Grazing, Code 528, to maintain the health and vigor of the plant community. Refer

to the National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRHP) for guidance on developing grazing management plans.

Additional Criteria for Use of Temporary Livestock Exclusion

Exclusion of livestock will be required for the specified period for the following conditions:

- Pine plantations – livestock shall be excluded from a newly established stand until the terminal bud of the mainstem is above the normal browse line. Normally this requires an exclusion of 2 to 5 years after establishment or as otherwise specified in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612.
- Critical Area Planting – livestock shall be excluded from the planted area for one (1) full growing season following planting. The exclusion period may be extended as needed to ensure the vegetation and site conditions are stable enough to permit livestock activities. Periodic grazing of the planted area may be allowed after the vegetation is well established provided the following conditions are met:
 - No more than 40% of the annual production may be removed.
 - Individual grazing periods do not exceed seven (7) consecutive days.
 - Recovery periods between grazing events will be a minimum of 21 days consecutive during the growing season and 42 consecutive days during the dormant season.
- In areas where establishment of riparian forest or riparian herbaceous buffers along perennial and intermittent streams is desired. The animals shall be excluded as specified in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard, Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391 or Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, Code 390.
- In areas where ground cover is not adequate to protect soil erosion within acceptable limits. The livestock exclusion period will be dependant upon site conditions, plant characteristics and climatic events. Consequently, the exclusion period may

range from a minimum of one year to several years.

- Area treated with conservation practices to reduce or eliminate the height, density or cover of target species. These Florida NRCS conservation practices include, but not limited to Brush Management, Code 314, Herbaceous Weed Control, Code 315, Forage and Biomass Planting, Code 512 and Prescribed Burning, Code 338. The length of the exclusion shall meet the specifications of the applicable Florida NRCS conservation practice standard.
- Areas where permanent or temporary food and/or cover plots for wildlife are established. The length of the exclusion period for domestic livestock shall at a minimum extend 120 days from the planting date or otherwise specified in Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 644.

A harvest and grazing management system shall be implemented in accordance with Florida NRCS conservation practice standards, Forage Harvest Management, Code 511, and Prescribed Grazing, Code 528, to maintain the health and vigor of the plant community. Refer to the National Range and Pasture Handbook (NRHP) for guidance on developing grazing management plans.

In the event that this practice is implemented in a manner that reduces or eliminates livestock access to sources of drinking water; alternative water sources shall be provided.

CONSIDERATIONS

Even though usage of the area is monitored and controlled, the land manager and/or tenant should be advised about emergency preparedness agencies and related information, e.g., the local fire/wildfire control agency and pumper truck water sources on or near the area. Information should be designated initially and re-designated annually.

Assess status of landowner and user liability before installing barriers.

Use of access control maybe required to ensure the success of other implemented conservation practices. To facilitate implementation of access control, the use of other facilitating practices may be needed; these include but are not limited to fences, livestock/wildlife watering facilities, stream crossings, and other component practices.

Public use should be considered in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and/or narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

The landowner/manager shall be provided detailed specifications in a site-specific job sheet, or in the practice narrative of the conservation plan for implementation of this practice.

These plans and specifications shall be consistent with this standard and other applicable reference material.

At a minimum the plans and specifications shall include:

1. Size and location of the area to be excluded. The location of the Use Exclusion shall be shown on the conservation plan map.
2. Purpose(s) for the exclusion.
3. Length of the exclusion.
4. Type of barrier to be constructed. This shall include the specifications necessary to construct a barrier that will accomplish the intended purpose.
5. Date and method of construction.
6. Type of land preparation required for construction.
7. Conditions that must be met in order for the exclusion to be removed.
8. Operation and maintenance requirements.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities will be performed routinely and at least annually with changes made to specifications and operation and maintenance requirements as necessary.

Modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained

REFERENCES

Florida NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Critical Area Planting, Code 342
 Brush Management, Code 314
 Fence, Code 382
 Forage Harvest Management, Code 511
 Forage & Biomass Planting, Code 512
 Herbaceous Weed Control, Code 315
 Pond, Code 378
 Prescribed Grazing, Code 528
 Prescribed Burning, Code 338
 Riparian Forest Buffer, Code 391,
 Riparian Herbaceous Buffer, Code 390,
 Stream Crossing, Code 578
 Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612,
 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management,
 Code 645
 Watering Facility, Code 614
 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management,
 Code 644

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.

National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH)

National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH)

NRCS General Manual (GM)

Title 190, Part 410.22-Procedures for NRCS
Assisted Programs
Title 190, Part 410.26-Protection of
Wetlands
Title 420, Part 401-Cultural Resources
Title 450, Part 401-Technical Guides

National Planning Procedures Handbook
(NPPH)

FL Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6

NRCS Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH),
1997

NRCS Range and Pasture Handbook (NRPH),
Revision 1, 2003

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