

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

ACCESS CONTROL

(Ac.)

CODE 472

DEFINITION

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

PURPOSE

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

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.

Exclusion will be by one or more of the following:

1. Constructed barriers of woven wire, barbed wire, suspension, high tensile, or power fencing as outlined in Fencing (382).
2. Established living fences of trees or shrubs, see Hedgerow Planting (422).
3. Arrangement of fields.

Barriers for stream corridor protection are to be constructed on stable stream banks and shall not be closer than 30 feet to the water.

Barriers along forested areas shall be constructed outside the canopy drip line to reduce maintenance and repair due to falling limbs.

Barriers shall not be constructed more than 100 feet from the targeted area to be protected.

CONSIDERATIONS

The type of barrier will depend on the kind of livestock or other targeted objects to be excluded and the land user's objectives.

For ease of fence maintenance and creation of wildlife borders along streams, barriers should be placed a distance of two times the height of the stream bank or a minimum of 30 feet from the water.

If permissible, flash grazing along stream banks, especially along cold water streams has been found to be beneficial in reducing both woody and herbaceous weed pressures.

NRCS, IA

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [State Office](#), or visit the [Field Office Technical Guide](#).

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Barrier type and design should account for and minimize impact to impair wildlife health and animal movement.

Barriers should account for and minimize impact on public safety activities such as fire control.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for installing access control shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

The following list of Construction Specifications is intended as a guide to selecting the appropriate specifications for a specific project. The list includes most but may not contain all of the specifications needed for a specific project:

- IA-1 Site Preparation
- IA-3 Structural Removal
- IA-92 Fence

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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

Follow applicable O&M procedures outlined under Fencing (382) or Hedgerow Planting (422).

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

REFERENCES

USDA, NRCS Iowa Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications.

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_ind_ex.htm