

**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 access control activities and/or practices (e.g., posting of signs and markings, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers, permits) to achieve the intended purpose. Activities will be compatible with the application schedule and life span of other practices specified in the conservation plan.

For each activity or practice, identify all entities 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 include temporary or permanent exclusion of one or more entities.

Describe the placement, location, dimensions and materials (e.g., signs and markings, gates, fence, logs, boulders, vegetation, topography, permanent water courses, or earth fill.), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates) for each activity including monitoring frequency.

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

Conservation practice standards (e.g. fence, hedgerow planting, or wildlife habitat management) that are used for access control must meet the requirements of the practice standard.

Do not use known invasive species in vegetative barriers. Refer to the Illinois Field Office Technical Guide, Section I, Invasive Plant Species, for plant materials identified as invasive species.

Fences constructed for access control will be placed a minimum of 25 horizontal feet from any perennial stream, pond, lake, or actively eroding streambank. Emergency spillways shall also be fenced from livestock accessibility.

Ensure that the barrier life expectancy is adequate for the intended purpose.

Use of this standard for marking will comply with Illinois Purple Paint Law (Public Act 097-0477)

CONSIDERATIONS

If vegetative barriers are used, consider the use of native species in order to reduce the introduction of invasive plant species.

Give consideration to safety, health, and public relations (e.g., required easement access, fire control, where public right of access has been previously established) when placing barriers.

When establishing fences or barriers along forested areas, consider placement beyond the expected mature tree canopy to reduce damage from falling limbs.

Consider wildlife travel corridors when placing barriers.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Prepare specifications for applying this practice for each site or area using Illinois 472 Job Sheet.

Specifications will include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- The entity to be monitored and managed
- Intent, intensity, amounts, and timing of exclusion
- Type and amount of material
- Installation details, including placement, dimensions, and timing
- Operation and Maintenance requirements

If other conservation practices are utilized for access control, prepare the appropriate specifications outlined in the applicable practice standard.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Monitor the effectiveness of access control activities, at least annually, or more often if necessary.

If access control practices or activities are not working, make adjustments as needed to achieve the intended purpose.

Temporary modifications to access control activities or practices are allowed to accommodate emergency contingencies such as wildfire, tornados, drought, or flood as long as resource conditions are maintained.

REFERENCES

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_index.html

[Illinois Purple Paint Law, August 2011, Illinois Public Act 097-0477, Section 5, www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)