

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS**

CODE 575

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

Properly operated and maintained animal trails and walkways are an asset to your farm. These were designed and installed to provide or improve access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, and/or shelter; to improve grazing efficiency and distribution; or to protect ecologically sensitive, erosive, and/or potentially erosive sites. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Check all rock riprap sections and other structural sections for accelerated weathering and displacement. Replace to original grades as necessary.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetation. This includes reseeding, fertilizing, weeding by hand, and applying herbicides when necessary. Periodically mow if needed to control height.
- Periodically grade or reshape trails or walkways to maintain the designed grade and dimensions.

- Investigate all erosion, settlement, or cracks in the soil to determine the cause and repair as necessary.
- Replace surfacing materials and regrade surfaces as needed.
- Maintain installed fences and gates.
- Periodically remove manure accumulations, debris, and litter from trail and walkway surfaces and adjoining land areas.
- Inspect for damage by rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock.

Specific Recommendations

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).