

**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**

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 in the design document for each activity including monitoring frequency.

Use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, patrolling, gates, fences and other barriers) 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.

Barriers consisting of trees and/or shrubs will use the guidelines in NRCS Conservation

Practice Standard, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Code 380.

Placement of the barrier shall be an appropriate distance, but not more than 100 feet from the targeted area being protected. If mature canopy width is expected to exceed the 100 feet minimum, use the minimum distance needed greater than 100 feet.

Barriers associated with roads and trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard human safety and minimize the risk of liability for example using bright paint or reflective devices on gates near public access trails.

Facilitating practices will be used when closing animals off to a water source, e.g.: Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614), Pumping Plant (533), Water Well (642), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), or Pond (578).

**ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR 100-YEAR FLOODPLAINS**

**NOTE: Individual programs may have different or more restrictive criteria than shown here. Refer to the program manual for specific programmatic requirements.**

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Manage the land behind ~~fence~~ the access control structure. Proper management such as a grazing or haying plan, forest management plan or other vegetative or livestock management activity that supports good land management in the "controlled" area is expected (e.g. management activities that result in reducing the threat of invasive species in the "controlled" area).

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 (among other possible equipment resources). Information should be designated initially and re-designated annually.

Use the concepts of landscape level planning to limit potential liability to the planning agency and the landowner. Review safety, health, legal and public relation issues as appropriate to avoid potential problems for the landowner, tenants or other landusers such as snowmobile clubs.

When establishing fences or barriers along forested areas, place the structure beyond the expected mature tree canopy width to reduce maintenance and repair from falling limbs.

Limit interference with wildlife migration corridors when placing barriers. For wildlife purposes use NRCS Conservation Practice Standards, Hedgerow Planting, Code 422, Upland Wildlife Habitat Establishment, Code 645 or another wildlife practice as appropriate to meet water, cover or forage needs.

#### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each area and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and

narrative statements in the conservation plan, or another acceptable documentation.

#### **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**

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. 2009. 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/2009r1r2/pdf\\_ind ex.htm](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/pdf_ind ex.htm)