

**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. The use-regulating 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, fencing), and frequency of use (e.g. continuous, specific season, or specific dates) shall be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by the targeted entity and not be a safety hazard to people or animals.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Adequate warnings or markings will be displayed where there is potential danger with the use of a barrier.

NRCS, TN
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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. Easy access by emergency preparedness agencies should be considered when applying this practice.

Barriers may consist of either natural and/or artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth-fill, boulders, fences, gates, barrier posts (bollards), electronic and sonic devices, or signs.

Public use may be an issue in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design should minimize impacts to non-targeted entities such as wildlife (i.e. animal movement).

Consider the effects of installation of barriers and fences on the integrity of subsurface cultural resources (including compaction). Also consider the benefits installation may have on cultural resources by reducing the potential for erosion from livestock and vehicle traffic.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other 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, drought, tornadoes, 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. Rept. PNWGTR-509. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

Paige, C. 2008. *A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences*. Landowner/Wildlife Resource Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, MT. 44 pp.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2003. *Manual of 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