

**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.

This standard shall not be used as a substitute for the Virginia Conservation Practice Standard Fence (Code 382), when a fence is a required component of a management plan.

Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice.

CONSIDERATIONS

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

Use access control to limit livestock access to streams/ponds and adjacent riparian zones to mitigate damage to stream banks, shorelines and riparian vegetation and to prevent future degradation.

Use access control in agro forestry operations to exclude livestock from tree plantings during vulnerable periods. Consider fencing and seasonal use restrictions to reduce damage to young seedlings.

Consider the positive and negative effects of the installation of barriers and fences on the integrity of above and below ground cultural resources.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each area and recorded using the VA Job Sheet and/or a narrative statement in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

The following elements will be included in the plan to meet the intended purpose:

- Type of use-regulating activity
- Intended purpose of the practice

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](#) for Virginia.

- Acceptable level of resource concern mitigation
- Identify the entity to be monitored/regulated
- Specify the terms of exclusion (intensity, amount, and timing)
- Identify placement, location, dimension and materials of proposed barriers or signs
- Describe the allowed frequency of use by the controlled entity
- Establish monitoring requirements and frequency

Use the practice job sheet to plan and certify this practice.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Perform routine monitoring of the effectiveness of use-regulating activities at least annually with changes made to specifications and operation and maintenance requirements as necessary.

Repair barriers as needed to maintain the expected performance of the practice.

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. 2003. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC.

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