

ACCESS CONTROL (472)

Planner Guide

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 472



ACCESS CONTROL

Access control is excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of access control is to protect, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of the natural resources in an area. The purpose also includes aesthetic resources, as well as human health and safety.

The practice is used in a conservation plan in areas where vegetation establishment or maintenance is a concern. Protecting the vegetation is often essential to conserving the other natural resources.

The barriers constructed for access control must be adequate to prevent intrusion of the target animals, vehicles, or people. The barriers are usually fences, but may also be natural and artificial structures such as logs, boulders, earthfill, gates, signs, etc.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Access Control is commonly planned as part of Conservation Management System with practices such as Fence (382), Pasture and Hay Planting (512), Range Planting (550), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Hedgerow Planting (422), and other conservation practices.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated practice specifications and Job Sheets for further information.

Complete the basic header information: client name, farm/ranch location, farm and tract numbers, fields in which the practice will be installed, proposed treatment acres (practice extent), program under which this practice is being installed, planned date for installation and if there is a contract associated with this practice, include the contract item number. Also, document the planner who wrote the specification in the space following the “Assisted by”.

Existing (Benchmark) Condition;

Average annual precipitation can be estimated from NRCS geodata layers, NOAA, local weather data collecting stations.

Use Web Soil Survey for determining soil series and for reviewing soil limitations and suitability for activities and equipment use.

Describe what resource conditions need protection from unrestricted access by a particular entity (people, vehicles, Equipment, livestock or wildlife) .

Describe attached supporting documentation, such as photos, maps, survey or plot cards, and any other inventory tool used.

Purposes: Entities and Resources Concerns

Entities are People, Vehicles, Equipment, Livestock or Wildlife. Through inventory and analysis the planner has determined that one or more of these entities are posing a risk or causing damage to one or more resources. Put a check by all entities and all resource concerns that apply and meet landowner objectives.

Define the specific Resource Concern such as: Soil Erosion- Sheet, rill & wind or Water quality Degradation – Excessive sediments in surface waters.

Associated Practices

472 Access Control is likely to be used in association with other practices and as part of a conservation system to treat a resource concern. Put a check by each practice that is part of that conservation system.

Access Control Activity

Specify with a check whether the activity or exclusion is designed to be Permanent (at least as long as the practice life), Temporary (activity, exclusion or deferment will last at least 1 year) or Seasonal (activity, exclusion or deferment lasts less than a year in duration but may be repeated in subsequent years)

How will access control be accomplished? Describe the activity or barrier structure being used to control and/or monitor access to the restricted area. This might include gates, fences, tank traps, and other barrier structures. This would also include activities like posting signs, patrolling the area, deferring grazing until the vegetation is more stable, along with other monitoring and management activities

Define the timing, frequency (if appropriate) and duration of the use-regulating activity or the installation timing and date for the exclusion barriers.

The timing, frequency, duration of the use-regulating activity should correspond to the time period when the risk level to the resource is significant or increasing. So for example: when will the gate be installed and during what seasons will the gate be used and when and how often will the participant check the effectiveness of the gate; when will patrolling start each year and how often will the participant patrol; when will signs be posted and how often should their effectiveness be monitored; When is a tank trap installed, how often does it need to be checked for effectiveness and maintenance needs; and so on....

Timing of installation of barrier structures should also be consistent with preventing erosion and sediment delivery to surface water.

Check the types of additional documentation that is attached and describe the documentation.

For the Engineering drawings and design packet, describe how the packet is titled or named. The following items are in the design packets:

- Soils and other inventory data
- Design Calculation
- Plan view site map
- Quantities estimates
- Material and Construction Specifications
- O&M plan
- As-Builts/Practice certification

On the photo (in the file) or *video label*, *always* put location (operation name, Farm/Tract, or contract #), field, date and what you are documenting. For the photo/Video name put some sort of identifying alpha-numeric code or name.

For attached maps, document the type of maps and the name of each map.

Describe any analysis worksheets used to determine a resource concern and recommended treatments. Also identify sketches of barrier structures or their locations. All sketches and worksheets should have a title or alpha-numeric code identifying them.

Below are common resource conditions and conservation practices needing protection from unrestricted access by an entity:

Tree/shrub plantings – newly planted tree/shrub seedlings need to be protected from trampling and browsing on the average of 3-5 years. Terminal bud needs to be above browsing height.

Grass Seedings – protect from grazing, fire, and vehicle compaction at least one full growing season. Seeding in low precipitation may need protection for 3-5 years to become fully established.

Access Roads/Trails/Landings – Control access during wet season.

Abandoned Roads – need permanent protection from vehicles and equipment.

Important Native Plant Habitats, including Riparian Areas - may need permanent protection from livestock grazing and controlled access of people.

Identified Wildlife Habitat Areas – areas with unique or specified wildlife habitat may need protection from human and livestock disturbance during nesting, calving, or spawning season. Identified T & E species may need protection from disturbance the entire year.

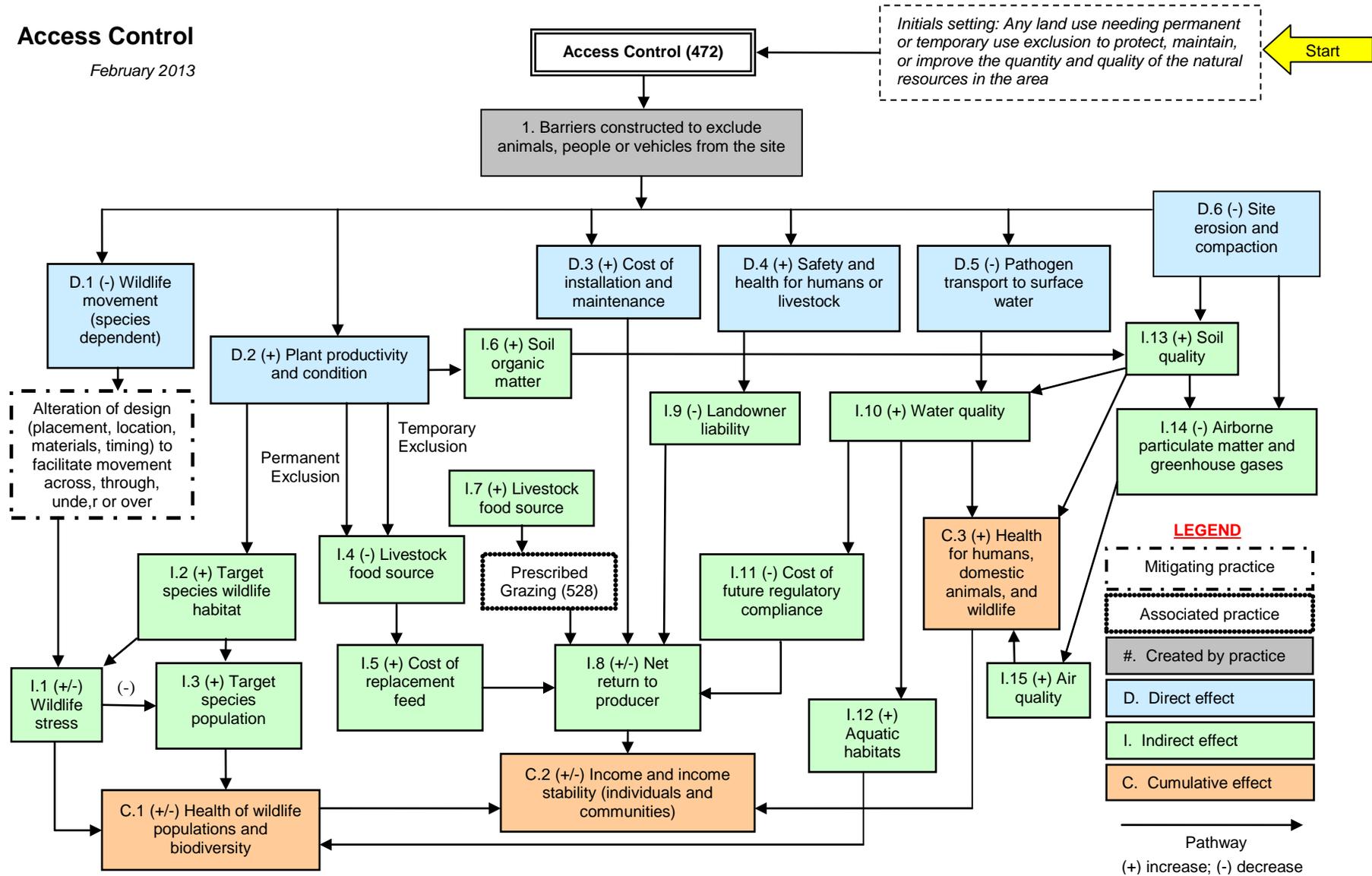
All Land Uses – controlled access of people may be needed during hunting and fire season and sometimes the entire year for the prevention of spreading noxious weeds.

Considerations

Use this section for: documenting that the soils, site and timing are suitable for equipment used to install the barriers; documenting how this practice will coincide and is compatible with the associated practices within the conservation system—including practice life; and any other descriptions and discussions associated with this practice.

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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.