



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
ACCESS CONTROL
CODE 472
(AC.)

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

Constructed barriers can be of natural or artificial materials such as logs, vegetation, earth fill, boulders, gates or signs.

Use-of regulating activities (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 of the targeted entity. Activities may involve temporary or permanent exclusion of one to all target entities.

Barriers must be adequate to prevent, restrict, or control use by targeted vehicles, animals or people and barriers associated with roads or trails shall be adequately marked to safeguard humans and to minimize the risk of liability.

Barriers, such as fences, will be placed so that potential damage from ice movement will not damage or destroy them.

The barrier life expectancy must be adequate to address the intended purpose.

Placement, location, dimensions and materials (signs, gates), and acceptable frequency of use (continuous, specific season, or specific dates) shall be described for each restricted activity including monitoring methods and frequency.

Earthen fill or construction of any barrier that changes elevations or potentially impedes floodwater flow within a 100-year floodplain is subject to approval and/or permit from the appropriate federal, state or local agency with jurisdiction for floodplain management.

CONSIDERATIONS

Develop a conservation management system 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).

Develop public access alternatives in areas where public right of access has previously been established by past use and law.

Barrier type and design should account for and minimize negative impacts to wildlife health and animal movement.

Barriers should account for and minimize impact on public safety activities such as fire control.

The owner and/or tenant should be advised about emergency preparedness agencies and related information, such as the local fire department, wildfire control agency and or pumper truck water sources on or near the area.

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 land users.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using, Wisconsin NRCS Job Sheet, Access Control (472), technical notes, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation options.

Written plans and specifications shall include location map, sketches and drawings that adequately describe the requirements to install this practice. Additional information shall include the following:

- Identify the entity and restrictions,
- Barriers used (e.g., fence established according to design), and
- Facilitating practices (e.g., vegetative cover established according to design).

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 to achieve the desired resource conditions.

Modifications to activities and use of measures are allowed temporarily to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, drought, or flood as long as desired resource conditions are maintained.

REFERENCES

USDA, NRCS Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications.

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. http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003r1r2/pdf_index.htm

Wisconsin Department of Transportation—Wisconsin Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (WMUTCD)
<http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/local-gov/traffic-ops/manuals-and-standards/wmutcd/wmutcd.aspx>.

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