

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP) is a way to stabilize a ground surface that is frequently and intensively used by people, animals, or vehicles.

Practice Information

This practice is installed to protect and improve water quality by providing a stable, non-eroding surface for areas frequently used by animals, people, or vehicles.

Commonly used surface treatments include concrete, bituminous concrete, and gravel. In some places, it may be necessary to provide a roofed structure over the treated surface to achieve the desired resource protection.

This practice is often used to provide surface stability in areas where concentration of livestock is causing a resource concern. This includes feeding areas, portable hay rings, watering facilities, feeding troughs, and mineral areas. In these areas, provision must be made for the collection, storage, utilization, and treatment of manure and contaminated runoff.

It can also be used to make recreation areas accessible to people with disabilities.

This practice has a minimum expected life of 10 years. Maintenance requirements for the practice will depend upon the type of surface chosen by the producer and its intended use.



Routine maintenance will be needed to ensure that the facility operates as designed.

Common Associated Practices

Heavy Use Area Protection (561) may be installed as a stand-alone practice or may be applied with conservation practices to control surface water such as Diversion (362), Filter Strip (393), or Vegetated Treatment Area (635). It may also be necessary to use Access Control (472) or Fence (382) to modify traffic patterns around the area. Other commonly associated conservation practices include Roofs and Covers (367), Waste Storage Facility (313), Prescribed Grazing (528), and Watering Facility (614).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

