



Notice of Proposed Changes to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices for the
Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Docket No. 1]

PROPOSED FULL TEXT FOR PRACTICE STANDARD CODE 472

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

This practice is used to ~~accomplish~~manage the ~~following purpose:~~

~~Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity~~timing of use by animals, people, vehicles, ~~and/or~~ equipment ~~in coordination with the application schedule to address one or more of practices, measures, and activities specified in the conservation plan~~ the following purposes:

- Protect plant productivity and health.
- Protect soil from compaction.
- Reduce erosion.
- Reduce water quality degradation.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all land uses where sensitive areas need protection from animals, people, vehicles, or equipment. This practice is not used to manage grazing and browsing livestock.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

~~Use~~Access and use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, ~~patrolling,~~paint blazing trees,

NRCS reviews and periodically updates conservation practice standards. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service State office or visit the Field Office Technical Guide online by going to the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/> and type FOTG in the search field.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

NRCS, NHCP
Month Year

~~and gates, fences and other barriers, permits) must achieve~~ will achieve the intended purpose and include mitigating associated resource concerns to acceptable ~~levels during~~ levels during their installation, operation, and maintenance. Activities will complement ~~the application-schedule and life span of~~ other practices specified in the conservation plan. Ensure access points have universal access to emergency personnel, as needed.

~~Each activity or measure will identify the entity to be monitored and regulated (animals, people, vehicles, and 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. Use Web Soil Survey, as needed, to help design the practice.~~

~~Placement, location, dimensions, and materials (e.g., signs, gates), and frequency of use (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates) must be described for each activity including monitoring frequency.~~

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. Information should be designated initially and redesignated annually.~~

This practice may improve air quality by reducing traffic and dust emission on unpaved roads and trails. Temporary modifications are allowed to accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood, if resource conditions are maintained.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

~~Specifications for applying this practice must be prepared for each area and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets~~ implementation requirements, and ~~narrative statements in the conservation plan, or~~ other acceptable documentation. At a minimum, for each entity use-regulating activity, provide:

- Identify animals, people, vehicles, and equipment to be regulated and specify the intent, amounts, and timing of exclusion by that entity.
- Drawings to illustrate installation or implementation requirements (if needed).
- Map showing the location of the Access Control.
- Soils map and description of soils, as needed.
- Kind and amount of material needed (e.g., gates, signs, paint slash marks).
- Installation details, including placement and dimensions.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

~~Monitor~~ 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~~ Reapply materials as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or

~~flood if resource conditions are maintained.~~needed (paint when blazing trees).

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. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Portland, OR.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 2009. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways - Part 5, Traffic Control Devices for Low-Volume Roads. Washington, DC. https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009r1r2/pdf_index.htm.