United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

ACCESS CONTROL

CODE 472

(ac)

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DEFINITION

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, or equipment from an area.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to manage the timing of use by animals, people, vehicles, or equipment to address one or more of 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

Activities involve temporary to permanent exclusion from a sensitive area (e.g., riparian buffer, wetland).

Access and use-regulating activities (e.g., posting of signs, paint blazing trees, and gates) achieve the intended purpose and include mitigating associated resource concerns to acceptable levels during their installation, operation, and maintenance. Activities complement other practices specified in the conservation plan. Describe placement, location, dimensions, and materials (e.g., signs, gates), and frequency of use for each activity including monitoring frequency. Ensure emergency personnel have universal entry to access points, as needed.

CONSIDERATIONS

This practice may improve air quality by reducing traffic and dust emission on unpaved roads and trails. Accommodate emergency-level contingencies such as wildfire, hurricane, drought, or flood through

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.

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temporary modifications, 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, implementation requirements, and other acceptable documentation. At a minimum, for each entity use-regulating activity, provide:

- Identify animals, people, vehicles, and equipment to be managed. Specify the intent and amounts.
- Timing of exclusion by the entity (e.g., continuous, specific season, or specific dates).
- Drawings to illustrate installation or implementation requirements, as 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 effectiveness of use-regulating activities routinely and at least annually with changes made to specifications, as necessary. Reapply materials as 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.

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