

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM27 – Wildlife friendly fencing



Enhancement Description

This enhancement involves the use of wildlife friendly fencing techniques that allow free passage of daily wildlife movement and seasonal migration; and/or increase visibility to prevent entanglement and mortality.

Land Use Applicability:

Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland, Forestland

Benefits

Fencing used to define property boundaries and contain livestock creates barriers and traps to wildlife movement, fragments habitats and separate herds. Improper fence design results in injury and death through entanglement and collision. Wildlife friendly fencing techniques allow for safe passage and increase fence visibility improving wildlife habitat, granting access to food, shelter and water.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to cropland, pastureland, rangeland or forestland that has existing fencing in need of a retrofit.

Criteria

Wildlife friendly fence should improve passage through the fence by either jumping or crawling and be highly visible to prevent collision, entanglement and fatalities. Focus the use of wildlife friendly fencing along known wildlife travel corridors. For full implementation of this enhancement, at least 20% of **ALL** fencing on an operation must be made wildlife friendly.

1) Improve Passage

Retrofit Existing Fence- openings and crossing to allow wildlife access to food, water and shelter must be created in existing fence. Location and number of openings required will meet NRCS state standards. Methods used included but are not limited to:

1. Lay-down fence
2. Seasonal electric fence
3. Adjustable wire fence
4. Underpass fence with raised wire
5. Pole top fence



2) Improve Visibility

- a) Increase visibility of ALL fencing using flagging, vinyl markers, PVC pipe or other similar materials that will meet NRCS state standards for spacing, interval and size. A good example of improving visibility for prairie grouse (e.g. prairie chickens, sage grouse, etc.) in rangeland can be found at:
www.suttoncenter.org/pages/fence_marking_instructions
- b) If no state criteria exist, follow criteria in the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks publication "[A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences.](#)"

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when 20% of the existing permanent fence on the operation has any combination of improved passage or improved visibility.

Documentation Requirements

1. Identify type (s) of wildlife friendly fencing used,
2. Location on a map showing where wildlife friendly fence is located, and
3. Photograph of each wildlife friendly fencing method used.

ANIMAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

ANM27 – OR Wildlife-friendly fencing

Criteria

Oregon NRCS criteria for “wildlife-friendly fence”:

- 1) Distance from ground to top wire/rail does not exceed 42 inches (total fence height), and
- 2) Top 2 wires/rails are spaced at least 12 inches apart, and
- 3) Distance from ground to bottom wire/rail is at least 16 inches.

Spacing requirements can be waived if total fence height does not exceed 30 inches. Woven wire fences of any size will NOT be considered wildlife friendly for the purposes of this enhancement.

New fence construction shall follow the Oregon NRCS Practice 382 Job Sheet for Wildlife-Friendly Wire Fence or other wildlife-friendly techniques described in the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks publication “A Landowner’s Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences”. If existing fence is removed, it shall be baled and taken off site.

Oregon NRCS criteria for fence markers to improve visibility:

- 1) Markers shall be made of a durable material (e.g., vinyl, PVC, etc.), and
- 2) At a minimum, markers will be secured to the top wire, be at least 3 inches in length, and be spaced no more than 4 feet apart.

Instead of markers, high-visibility wire/rails may also be installed.

Boundary Fences

Permanent boundary fences within the control of the participant shall be included in determining the amount of total existing permanent fence. Where two CSP participants share responsibility for a common boundary, each participant shall include their portion in determining their amount total existing fence. Each neighbor may choose to use this enhancement on the shared boundary if desired provided they use different sections of the shared boundary to implement the enhancement. Documentation showing the exact location of the enhancement along the shared boundary must be obtained for each participant.