

**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](http://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.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## IDAHO ADDENDUM 2012

### Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM27 – *Wildlife Friendly Fencing*

#### **Additional guidance for wildlife fencing:**

##### **Wildlife Friendly Fence**

Wildlife-friendly fence will have the following characteristics:

- Top wire/rail a maximum of 42” above ground.
- At least 12” between top two wires.
- Bottom wire/rail a minimum of 16” above ground.
- Smooth wire on the bottom.
- Post spacing at 16.5 foot maximum
- No vertical stays.

#### **Additional guidance for improved visibility:**

Use vinyl markers and follow placement guidelines as shown at:

[www.suttoncenter.org/pages/fence\\_marking\\_instructions](http://www.suttoncenter.org/pages/fence_marking_instructions)

In sage-grouse habitat, mark all existing fences within 0.6 mile of an occupied or historic lek and all fences where collisions are known to occur.

For additional information (e.g., electric fences), refer to the following documents:

Idaho NRCS Biology Technical Note 3, *Building Wildlife Friendly Fences*.  
[http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/ID/BioTN3-wildlife\\_fence.doc](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/ID/BioTN3-wildlife_fence.doc)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, *A Landowner’s Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences*. <http://fwpiis.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=34461>

NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook, *Chapter 8 – Wildlife Management on Grazing Lands*. <http://www.glti.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/publications/nrph.html>

**This activity may be used with any other enhancement.**

**Potential Duplicate Practices:**

**382 – Fence, 645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (fence marker),**

**734 – Fish and Wildlife Structure (fence marker)**