

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 and 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.

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.

- 1) Improve Passage
 - a) New Fence – **fencing must meet NRCS state standards for wildlife friendly fence** for height, wire spacing and post intervals. If no state criteria exist for line heights and spacing, post widths, crossings, fence stays, gaps, etc. follow criteria in Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks publication “A Landowner’s Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences”.
 - b) 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 New fencing (replacing existing fence or install were no fence existed before) using flagging, vinyl markers, PVC pipe or other similar materials that



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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 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks publication “A Landowner’s Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences”.

Documentation Requirements

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



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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.
- Posts at 16.5 foot intervals.
- 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

In sage-grouse habitat, mark all existing fences within 1/4 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

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, (except ANM19 may not also be used to construct wildlife friendly fence).

Potential duplicate practices: 382 - Fence