



ANM27 - Montana Supplement

Wildlife Friendly Fencing - (Animal Enhancement Activity)

Montana Clarification

Improve passage: Follow NRCS Montana Conservation Practice Specification 382-Fence, for this Enhancement (see Specifications, below). For full implementation of this enhancement, a MINIMUM of 20% on the operation must be made wildlife friendly.

NOTE: Montana NRCS will use common understandings such as “Rule of the Right” in eastern Montana or not include public fences where the participant has no control over fence modification to determine applicable length of fence.

Improve visibility: Increase visibility of all new fences in identified sage grouse areas that are within ¼ mile of a lek or key wintering areas using vinyl markers.

Montana Specifications

TABLE 9. Fence Height and Spacing Requirements

INTENDED USE	FENCE HEIGHT
Domestic livestock control with big game consideration.	Maximum height of 42 inches (+ or - 2 inches) for the top wire. Wire spacing of the top two line wires shall be a minimum of 10 inches apart at the post location. Bottom wire will be a minimum of 14 inches from the ground; 16 inches for antelope (see below for additional considerations for wildlife).
Domestic livestock control with big game consideration where the top wire exceeds 44 inches, but is not greater than 48 inches.	If wire height exceeds 44 inches, the distance between the top wire and the second wire will be at least 12” and provisions must be made at identified crossings for wildlife movement; both over and under the fence. These areas will not exceed 1/4-mile apart and there must be a minimum of one per fence. The fence in these designated crossing locations will not exceed 42 inches at the top wire and must include a minimum of one of the alternatives listed below to allow for wildlife movement (*see Common Alternatives below). Also see ***Special Use Only for a bison fence that exceeds the intended use.

***Common Alternatives.**

- Smooth wire on top and/or bottom, top wire tied down between two posts, bottom wire tied up between two posts,
- PVC on top wire for entire length between two posts; raise bottom wire in that stretch, lower top wire in that stretch,

- Wood rail at top wire between two posts maximum 38 inches high (38-inch elk jump),
- Cattle guard for antelope, 5. Extra stays so top and second wire will not cross, etc.). Minimum distance for chosen wildlife crossing is that distance between two posts or 1 rod (16.5 feet), whichever is greater.
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EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE COMMON WIRE SPACING

1. 3-Wire Cattle: 16", 29", 42"
2. 3-Wire Cattle: 14", 28", 42"
3. 4-Wire Cattle: 14", 22", 32", 42"
4. 4-Wire Cattle with Antelope: 16", 24", 32", 42"
5. 5-Wire Sheep: 5", 11", 18", 26", 36" (need something for Antelope)**
6. 5-Wire Cattle and Sheep: 8", 16", 24", 32", 42"; or 5", 11", 18", 28", 42" (Need access for Antelope)**
7. 7-Wire Cattle and Sheep: 3", 7", 11", 16", 26", 36", 44" (Need access for Antelope)**
8. Deer enclosure: See power and/or woven wire fence
9. Elk: See power and/or woven wire fence
10. Bison: *** Special Use only -- 10", 20", 26", 34", 40", 48", 56", 64" or 16", 25", 34", 45", 56", 68" with Antelope present (See Power Fence for other alternatives).
11. Grizzly and Wolf Predator: See power and or woven wire fence.

****Sheep fences** should incorporate "cattle guards" designed for Antelope movement through the fence (see drawing at <http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/eng/drawings.html>); have gates no taller than 36 inches so Antelope can jump over or any other means to allow control of the sheep while allowing Antelope movement across fences. Young of year have the most difficulty jumping fences and/or jumping cattle guards. Leave gates open at the end of the grazing period to accommodate all Antelope movement.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FENCES IN SAGE GROUSE HABITAT

- Fencing near leks (dancing grounds) will be avoided – no closer than 1,000 feet.
- Fences on the crest of low-lying hills may be a problem when located in high sage grouse use areas or near leks as grouse fly to display grounds before sunrise making them more vulnerable for collisions.
- Flat-topped wood posts provide raptor perch sites, consider having post with cone tops (purchase after market).
- Metal posts are preferable to wooden posts as the former discourages raptor perching.
- For segments of fence which are known to have grouse collisions, fence markers or tags that hang from the top wire may help grouse avoid the fence. PVC pipe strung through the top wire in one foot segments is an excellent alternative to flaggery.

Incompatible Enhancements

Some enhancements are not compatible with other enhancements. If you have a question, contact your local NRCS office.

Eligible Land

Crop, pasture, range and forest land

Applicable Amount

Applies to crop, pasture, range, or forest land types that have existing fencing in need of a retrofit.

Documentation Requirements

1. Identify type(s) of wildlife-friendly fencing techniques used
2. Location on a map showing where wildlife-friendly fencing techniques used
3. Photograph of each wildlife-friendly fencing techniques used

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all that is required for the implementation of this CSP Enhancement Activity.

Contract participant

Date