United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2013 Ranking Period 1

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. Selection of this enhancement requires the activity to be planned concurrently on all eligible land use acres.

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, 20% of **ALL** fencing on the land use 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. Indentify type (s) of wildlife friendly fencing used,
2. Location on a map showing were wildlife friendly fence is located, and
3. Photograph of each wildlife friendly fencing method used.

References

Paige, C. 2008. A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences. Landowner/Wildlife Resource Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, MT. pp 44. http://fwpiis.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=34461

ANM27 – Wildlife Friendly Fencing:

Follow criteria in Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks publication "A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences: How to Build Fence with Wildlife in Mind" (http://fwpiis.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=34461).

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