



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E382A**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Incorporating “wildlife friendly” fencing for connectivity of wildlife food resources

**Conservation Practice 382: Fence**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Range; Forest, Associated Ag Land**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 20 Years**

**Enhancement Description**

Retrofitting or constructing fences that provide a means to control movement of animals, people, and vehicles, but minimizes wildlife movement impacts.

**Criteria**

- The type and design of fence retrofitting or construction will meet the management objectives and site challenges.
- The fence jobsheet will specify:
  - Animal species of concern, both wildlife and domestic,
  - Wildlife movement specific modifications to be made to existing fences to meet these management objectives, or
  - Wildlife movement specific specifications that will be incorporated into newly constructed fences, and

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- Location of the "wildlife friendly" fence(s) and location of the habitat types affected by the fence.
- Examples:
  - Pronghorn antelope need to be afforded a smooth wire at the bottom of the fence with a 14" height above ground.
  - Deer need a maximum height of 42" with a minimum of 12" between the top two wires.
  - Fawns and turkeys need a stranded fence to negotiate (not woven wire).
  - Fences should be retrofitted to let down and put back up for migrating herds.
  - All open top pipes should be capped for songbirds.
  - If bats or sage grouse/lesser prairie chicken are selected as species of concern, then fences should be marked for visibility.
  - For bats, height requirements above water sources will be honored.
- Height, size, spacing and type of materials used will provide the desired control, life expectancy, and management of people and animals of concern. New fences will be designed, located, and installed to meet appropriate local wildlife and land management needs and requirements.
- Avoid clearing of right-of-way vegetation during the nesting season for migratory birds.
- Plans and specifications are to be prepared for all fence types, installations and specific sites.

**North Dakota Sideboard:**

The fence addressed by this enhancement must meet 382 Fence Specifications from corner brace to corner brace for the reach including hazards to wildlife. The portion of that reach posing a threat to wildlife, must be addressed with wildlife friendly fencing techniques.

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**Documentation and Implementation Requirements**

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**Participant will:**

- Prior to implementation, obtain an NRCS jobsheet that clearly identifies the species of concern. This document should clearly identify construction techniques for wildlife friendly modifications on existing fences, or specifications for newly constructed fences.
- Prior to implementation, develop a map with assistance from NRCS as needed, which identifies the location of the wildlife friendly fences to be modified or constructed.
- During implementation, consult with NRCS if there are any changes to modification or construction techniques.
- After implementation, provide a map of the actual location of constructed or modified fences for review to verify the enhancement was implemented.
- After implementation, provide pictures of newly constructed or modified fences depicting the specified construction techniques to benefit wildlife for review to verify the enhancement was implemented.

**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation, as requested, assist the participant in the development of a map identifying the location of wildlife friendly fences to be constructed or modified.
- Prior to implementation, develop a jobsheet (or specification as required in the state) for the participant that details wildlife friendly construction techniques.
- During implementation, assist the participant with modification of construction techniques to allow fences to function for both wildlife and domestic species.
- After implementation, review actual fence location map and photo documentation of constructed or modified wildlife friendly fences.

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**NRCS Documentation Review:**

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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