



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E382136Z

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

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

Conservation Practice 382: Fence

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife Habitat – Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE 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
 - Location of the "wildlife friendly" fence(s) and location of the habitat types affected by the fence.



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For examples, consider that 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.

Documentation Requirements

- Documentation of animal (wildlife and domestic) species of concern that will be targeted for the fence retrofitting or construction.
- The local state's NRCS approved jobsheet will be completed by NRCS and will be followed for retrofitting or construction. The jobsheet will clearly state:
 - 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
 - Location.