



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

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 job sheet will specify:
 - Animal species of concern, both wildlife and domestic, identify the species that have the potential to occur; the design will provide free movement for all species that have the potential to occur on site and within the landscape (CO practice criteria).
 - 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



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- 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 16" 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.
- All open top pipes that are over 2" ID will be capped to prevent songbird entrapment.
- For bats, height requirements above water sources will be honored. By completing one of the following: (1) remove wires above water sources such as troughs, tanks or ponds, or (2) provide a drop down or removable fence that will be let down/removed when livestock are not present, or (3) a minimum of 24" off the normal water level with the wires capped with PVC or other wise made visible. If these water sources are tanks or troughs, then a wildlife escape ramp will also be installed (refer to Biology Technical Note No. 43 for guidance).
- Fences that bisect sensitive habitat areas, such as leks, wetlands, waterways, springs, riparian areas, etc. will include visibility markers to reduce wildlife collisions or entanglement. Refer to [Colorado Range Technical Note No. 39](#) for guidance on strategic placement and options for increasing visibility of fence wires.
- 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.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain an Colorado NRCS job sheet 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.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.