



Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
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Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Paul Ferry, P.E. Revised 2/2/23 *MC*
Highways Engineer

Date: December 30, 2010

Subject: Wildlife Friendly Fence Details

This memo provides additional guidance in support of the April 6, 2007, memo on the use of wildlife-friendly fencing. The Department's intent is to encourage the installation wildlife-friendly fencing where appropriate. This requires coordination between the biologist, the designer and the R/W agent.

Biologist's Tasks

The District biologist will identify locations where wildlife-friendly fencing is appropriate. As noted in the MDT Fencing policy, the areas where wildlife-friendly fencing is recommended should be identified and documented during the Alignment and Grade Review.

During R/W negotiations, the District biologist will coordinate with the R/W agent and provide supporting information to encourage the landowner to utilize the appropriate type of fence. The Environmental Services Bureau has prepared a pamphlet showing various strand combinations and its use during discussions with landowners is encouraged. If necessary, the biologist will attend meetings with the landowner and the R/W agent to discuss the benefits of wildlife-friendly fence.

If the landowner agrees to the installation of wildlife-friendly fencing, the biologist will coordinate with the R/W agent and the designer to ensure that the correct strand combination is documented in the R/W agreement and included in the plans.

Designer's Tasks

The designer will document the locations identified as appropriate for wildlife-friendly fencing in one or more milestone reports.

The designer will provide the quantities of wildlife-friendly fencing in the Fencing summary. Note that different bid items are not being developed for the various strand combinations. The wildlife-friendly fence design will need to be incorporated into the bid package using standard special provision 607-1 Wildlife-Friendly Farm Fence. This special provision will need to be modified to accurately reflect the strand type and spacing documented in the R/W agreement.

At times the R/W agreement for a particular parcel has not been signed when the plans package is submitted to the Contract Plans Bureau. If no R/W agreement has been signed and wildlife-friendly fencing is recommended, the designer needs to contact the R/W agent and the District biologist to determine the wildlife-friendly fence status. Based on the input received, the designer will provide the estimated quantities and fence type in the summary. As always, when we have a signed R/W agreement, show the fencing that is described in the agreement.

Right-of-Way Agent's Tasks

In meetings with the landowner, the R/W agent will present the use of wildlife-friendly fence for consideration. At times, landowner concerns with the proposed wildlife-friendly fence design may arise. In an effort to install a fence that is acceptable to the landowner and still provide as much benefit to wildlife as possible, the R/W agent will present the landowner the various strand combinations and discuss the benefits of each. The use of these options gives the R/W agent something to offer the landowner when the preferred wildlife friendly fence is not acceptable to them.

The R/W agent is encouraged to use the pamphlet prepared by the Environmental Services Bureau and may include the District biologist to assist in discussions regarding wildlife-friendly fence. The final fence design agreed on with the landowner needs to be documented in the R/W agreement in accordance with the MDT Fencing policy.

If you have any questions, please contact [the Highways Engineer. me at 444-6244](mailto:the.Highways.Engineer.me@444-6244).

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