



Alan & Sandy Carey

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCING FOR TETON COUNTY

A RESOURCE NOTEBOOK FOR THE JACKSON HOLE COMMUNITY

PREPARED BY THE
JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
FIRST EDITION



HOW CAN FENCES BE A PROBLEM?



Meredith Campbell

This barbed wire fence could become a deadly obstacle for wildlife.

**FENCES POSE A PROBLEM TO WILDLIFE IN
SIGNIFICANT
WAYS WE DON'T ALWAYS SEE.**

ELK, DEER AND MOOSE CAN BECOME ENTANGLED IN FENCING



Tom Campbell

Barbed wire fences can catch the hooves of animals trying to jump a fence.



Jackson Hole Guide/ Ed Bushnell

When they struggle to escape, the wire tightens like a noose around their hoof.

TRUMPETER SWANS



Jeff Foott

Swans are the largest waterfowl in the country and need 100 unobstructed feet to take off. Fences crossing waterways pose a significant threat to a struggling population of native swans.



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Fences often maim or kill swans during take-off and landing.







FENCES INHIBIT MOVEMENT ALONG MIGRATION CORRIDORS AND IMPACT MANY SPECIES OF WILDLIFE



Meredith Campbell

Elk, deer and moose will go out of their way to use a section of a buck and rail fence that has been dropped.

FACTS LISTED FROM STUDIES CONDUCTED ON FENCING IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE: (information provided by Wyoming Game and Fish Department)

-  **DEER, ELK AND MOOSE GET BACK LEGS ENTANGLED IN THE TOP STRAND OF BARBED WIRE FENCES.**
-  **FENCES CREATE A BARRIER TO MOVEMENT AS ANIMALS SEEK TO MEET THEIR DAILY NEEDS FOR WATER, SHADE AND FOOD.**
-  **WINTER MIGRATION IS AFFECTED BY FENCE WHICH POSE A RISK OF ENTANGLEMENT AND MAY AFFECT THE VIGOR OF ANIMALS ALREADY STRESSED BY HARSH WINTER CONDITIONS; THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR YOUNG ANIMALS.**
-  **FENCES BLOCK WILDLIFE FROM CRITICAL WINTER RANGE AND ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER NECESSARY FOR SURVIVAL. THIS COULD FORCE ANIMALS INTO LESS DESIRABLE RANGES IN TERMS OF SLOPE ASPECT, VEGETATION AND SNOW DEPTH AFFECTING THE LONG TERM SURVIVAL OF THE HERD.**
-  **FENCES CAN ENTRAP WILDLIFE (E.G., ANIMALS CAUGHT IN A HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY CAN BE FORCED TO CROSS A BUSY ROADWAY BECAUSE THE FENCES ARE TOO HIGH TO JUMP).**
-  **CREATES DEADLY OBSTACLES FOR SANDHILL CRANES, GREAT BLUE HERONS, AND TRUMPETER SWANS WHEN BLOCKING FLYWAYS.**

WHAT DEFINES A GOOD FENCE?



Meredith Campbell

*Look for a rail on top, smooth wire on the bottom,
and 40 inches or less in height.*



Meredith Campbell

*A buck n' rail fence with dropped rails every 400 feet
allows animals to cross.*

MORE GOOD FENCING...



Merecith Campbell

Low post and rail fences are good, unless the fence is intended to protect a child's play area.



Jackson Hole Guide

Highly visible fences with wooden top rails over watercourses help trumpeter swans avoid hitting fences.

WHAT DEFINES A BAD FENCE?

IF FENCES ARE NECESSARY OR DESIRED, THERE ARE BOTH GOOD AND BAD FENCES. THE FOLLOWING ARE BAD FENCES:



Meredith Campbell

Barbed wire on the top and bottom of a fence can entangle wildlife.

Board
President,
Shirley
Cheramy is
5'3" tall (63")
and this fence
is nearly as
tall as she
is, far
exceeding the
recommended
height of
38-40".



Meredith Campbell

Buck n' rail fences are difficult to cross because they are too wide at their base and often too tall for wildlife to cross safely.

MORE BAD FENCING...



Meredith Campbell

This fence is too tall (unless wildlife movement through the area is not an issue).



Meredith Campbell

Old neglected fences create serious hazards for wildlife.

BAD FENCING...



Meredith Campbell

The lower rail on this fence is too low for wildlife to cross under safely.



Meredith Campbell

Although the height of the top rail is good, the bottom rail is too low if built in an area where wildlife frequently cross.

FENCE & FAMILY

A GOOD FAMILY FENCE WILL KEEP WILDLIFE OUT AND CHILDREN SAFE WITHIN. THE KEY TO THE FOLLOWING FENCE IS HEIGHT, STABILITY AND CLOSED AND LOCKED GATES.



Meredith Campbell

Wooden Plank Fence

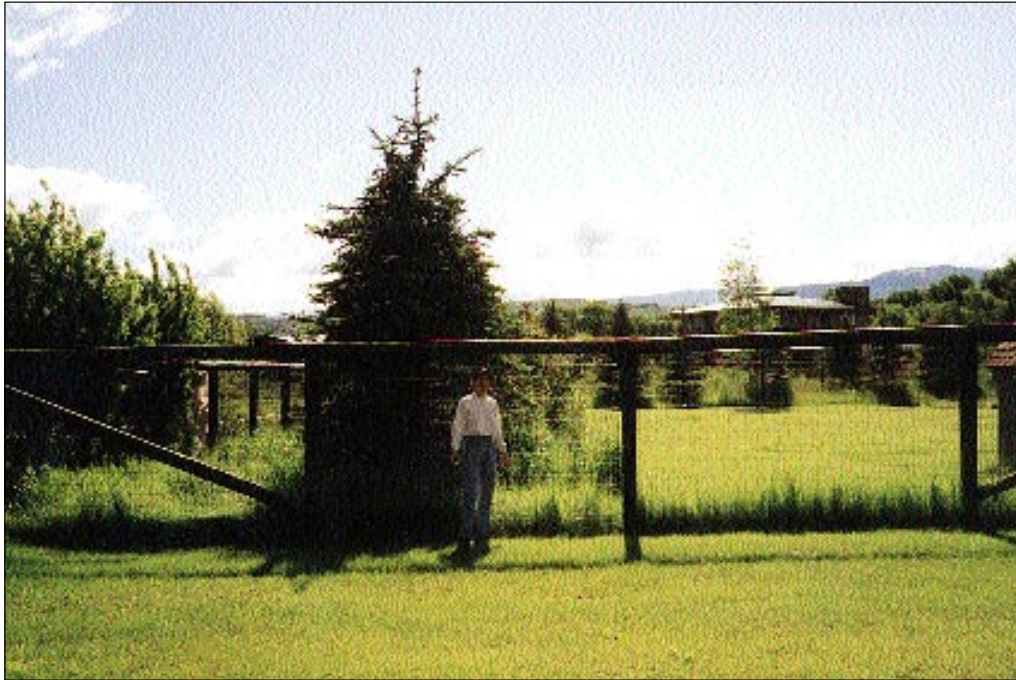
These fences are useful for small areas around homes, but are not recommended for perimeter fencing. If a gate is left open, moose and other game can find a way in but not out. This can panic the animal and lead to aggressive or unpredictable behavior.



Meredith Campbell

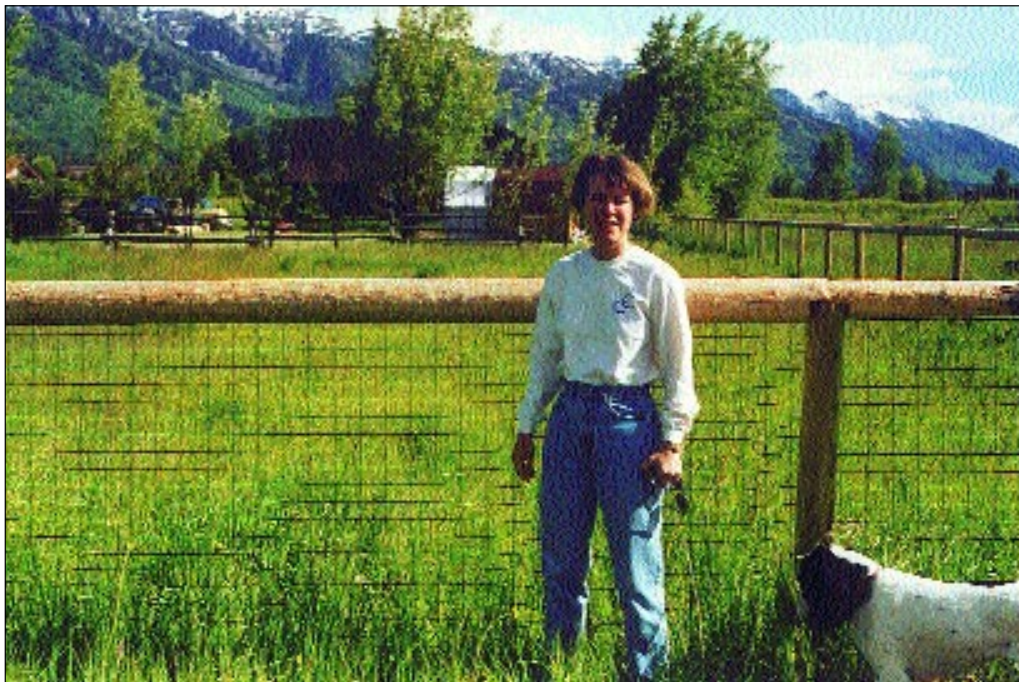
Chain Link Fence

FENCE & FAMILY (CONTINUED)....



Meredith Campbell

This is a good fence for keeping wildlife out because it is too tall for ungulates to negotiate.



Meredith Campbell

This is a poor yard fence. It does keep kids and pets in, but is too low to keep wildlife out.

WHAT'S THE BEST SOLUTION?



Sharon Mader

Do not build any fences at all. Instead use natural vegetation to serve as a privacy fence.



Sharon Mader

Use trees or vegetation as a boundary marker, in place of a fence.

HOW CAN WE REMEDY EXISTING FENCES?

ADD A TOP RAIL TO AN EXISTING BARBED WIRE FENCE IN SECTIONS THAT BLOCK MIGRATION ROUTES OR ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER. THE TOP RAIL PREVENTS ENTANGLEMENT AND MAKES THE FENCE MORE VISIBLE.



Meredith Campbell

Before



Meredith Campbell

After

Left to Right: Ed Cheramy, Bob Paulson & Bruce Simon

MORE REMEDIES...

TAKE DOWN BARBED WIRE FENCES THAT ARE NO LONGER IN USE TO REMOVE HAZARDS TO WILDLIFE. THE JACKSON HOLE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION HAS REMOVED 14 MILES OF BARBED WIRE FENCE THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY.



Mary Gerty

Volunteers take down fences that have fallen into disrepair.



Mary Gerty

The barbed wire is brought to the Jackson Community Recycling Center.

MORE REMEDIES...



Meredith Campbell

Drop buck n' rail fences every 400' to allow wildlife to cross safely.



Meredith Campbell

Do not leave fences that have fallen into disrepair.

MORE REMEDIES...



Sharon Mader

Fences which cross waterways should be marked with a florescent-colored plastic sleeve to prevent swans from become entangled. At a minimum, it should be flagged for greater visibility.

David Owens
of Owens
Excavation
built a wildlife
friendly fence
around the
perimeter of
his gravel pit
on the corner
of Highway 22
and Highway
390.



Sharon Mader

Work with private landowners as partners to build wildlife friendly fences when a new fence is needed.



Greg Winston

FENCES HAVE BECOME A SYMBOL OF THE WEST.

PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO EXPAND OUR IMAGE OF THE WEST TO INCLUDE THE MAGNIFICENT AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE WITH WHICH WE LIVE. BY CHOOSING WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCING WE ARE TAKING A STEP CLOSER TO LIVING COMPATIBLY WITH OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE.

THANKS FOR DOING YOUR PART.



For more information please see the enclosed brochure “ How to create Wildlife Friendly Fencing”, or call the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation at (307) 739-0968. Donations can be sent to: P.O. Box 8042, Jackson, Wyoming 83002.