



UPPER GREEN FENCE INITIATIVE



The Upper Green Fencing Initiative (UGFI) is a collaborative effort between SCCD, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners. The purpose of UGFI is to identify and implement wildlife friendly fence conversion projects in crucial habitat or migration pathways by modifying, removing or replacing problematic fences. This handout serves as a guidance for implementing wildlife friendly fencing. There are currently two types of wildlife friendly fencing options, physical fencing adhering to wildlife friendly specifications and virtual fencing.

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCE CONVERSION



INITIAL CONTACT AND INVENTORY

Be prepared to answer questions about your property and current fence state. A technician will come to your property and do a walkthrough of your fences both perimeter and internal. This data will be used to create a map, to be referenced throughout the project.



RANKING

All projects ranked by Oct. 31

SCCD and partners will look through all fences inventoried that year and make a ranked list of fences based on proximity to wildlife habitats, condition of fence and other factors. These rankings will be used to determine which projects will be prioritized for funding.



SECURING FUNDING AND CONTRACTING

6-18 months prior to implementation

Based on the ranking UGFI members will begin looking for funding for fences. Once funding is secured, chosen landowners will be notified. Contracting includes landowner agreements with neighboring property owners and agreement on fence planning.



FENCE BUILDING

Fences can be built either through a contractor or by the landowner. Either SCCD and Partners can select the contractor or the landowner can select the contractor. If SCCD manages the bid, a pre-bid tour/meeting is required. Fences must be built to the specifications given to the landowner.



CERTIFICATION

After the fence is finished a technician will inspect the fence and ensure it meets wildlife standards. Once specification are met, payment will be processed.

FLIP SHEET FOR INFORMATION ON VIRTUAL FENCING



VIRTUAL FENCING



OVERVIEW MEETING

SCCD meeting with interested parties (meeting may involve the producer, WGFD, BLM/USFS Range Specialist). This meeting discusses goals and objectives, establishes what pastures you will be "training" in and what allotments you need to have coverage.



RF PLANNING

SCCD works with Merck (Vence) to obtain an RF plan. This plan will tell us where to place towers and how many towers are needed for project success.



SECURING FUNDING AND AGREEMENT MEETINGS

6-24 months prior to implementation

SCCD and partners secure funding for the project. All partners agree upon project goals and objectives, monitoring dates, grazing rotations, collaring dates, training dates, etc.



MATERIAL PURCHASE

3-6 months prior to implementation

SCCD orders materials for the project. At this point each producer is responsible to sign a contract with Merck for the materials (SCCD pays the bill). Each producer is also responsible to sign an agreement with SCCD (expectations for receiving cost-share). Transfer from Sales to Rancher Success Team.



MATERIAL SETUP

1-3 months prior to implementation

Build towers and work with Rancher Success Team to build your ranch in Herd Manager Platform.

THE NEXT STEPS FOR PRODUCERS



COLLARING

Dates are determined by each producer based on when they are processing livestock. The producer understands they need to supply a chute for collaring. Staff may be available to assist with collaring.



TRAINING PREP

Producer works with Rancher Success Team to make sure that the towers are working prior to training.



LIVESTOCK TRAINING

Producer works with Rancher Success Team to train livestock for 4-6 days.



TURNOUT

During this phase, it is important to work closely with your range specialist if you are using this on public ground. It will also be important to communicate any project changes with SCCD.

For more information

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