

H-1741-1 Fencing

(Rel 1-1572, 12-6-89)

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H-1741-1 - FENCING

Chapter 4

G. Bison Range Fencing. Proper design and location of fences around and within bison use areas is critical since bison sometimes pay little heed to fencing. Several proven designs exist that provide effective control of buffalo and minimize maintenance costs.*

On small ranges (less than 10,000 acres), a "buffalo-tight" fence constructed from two spans of 47-inch woven wire (guage #11), overlapped about 4 inches to give a top height of 7 feet, 6 inches is recommended (similar to the fence at the top of Illustration 16). For interior or cross fencing, a 5-foot tall fence consisting of six wires, with the bottom wire smooth and placed 16 inches from the ground, has proven effective (see Illustration 17). An alternative to this consists of one band of 47-inch woven wire, with a 16-inch bottom-to-ground spacing (see Illustration 17).

On large buffalo ranges (10,000 acres or greater) the interior fence designs discussed above are generally adequate for exterior and interior fencing. Their height, "tight" spacing of wire and bottom clearance of 16 inches, requires that wildlife move under them. While this is satisfactory for antelope and most deer, bighorn sheep need a slightly larger space (18 inches) as do some large mule deer.

An alternative interior fence design that is generally suited to movement of all wildlife species is an electric fence with a top height of 38 inches. A design currently in use consists of a modern, high-voltage (New Zealand type) electric fence having three wires with only the top wire electrified. This type of fence is sometimes used with both the top and bottom wires electrified. Bison can jump over this electric fence if disturbed or pushed. Animals not accustomed to electric fencing may initially push it down. When steps are taken to help bison (or other species) develop a respect for electric fencing and "breachy" or rogue animals are culled, the design is quite effective.

H. Domestic Livestock Fences. Fencing is commonly used to control domestic livestock to achieve safety and vegetation management objectives. The standard BLM fence design for control of cattle only, consists of a four-wire (barbed) fence with a 42-inch top height and wire spacings of 16, 6, 8, and 12 inches.

*The standards for bison, as discussed in this section, are based in part on information from the National Bison Range, as provided by Jon Malcolm, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Moise, Montana.

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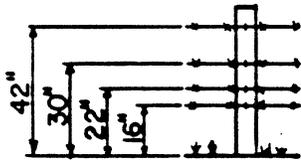
BLM Fence Standards for Livestock and WildlifeKinds of Use Combinations

| <u>Kinds of Livestock and Wild Burros</u> | <u>Predominant Big Game Wildlife Species</u> | <u>Number Wires</u> | <u>Max. Fence Height in Inches</u> | <u>Wire Spacing (From Ground Up, in Inches)</u> | <u>Wire Type</u> | <u>No. Stays Between Line Posts w/Spacing of 16.5' - 30'</u> |
|---|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <u>STANDARD BUREAU FENCES:</u> | | | | | | |
| Cattle | None | 4 | 42 | 16, 6, 8, 12 | Barbed. | 1 to 4 |
| Sheep | None | - | 36 | 2, 24 (Woven) 2, 8 | Woven, barbed. | |
| <u>STANDARD BUREAU MODIFICATIONS TO MEET MULTIPLE-USE NEEDS:</u> | | | | | | |
| Cattle (only) | Antelope, Javelina, or Deer and Antelope. | 3 | 38 | 16, 10, 12 | Bottom strand smooth, others barbed. | One w/post spacing of 16.5' -- 1 or 2 w/post spacing of 30'. |
| Sheep (only) | Antelope, Javelina or Deer | 4 | 32 | 12, 6, 6, 8 16.5' -- 1 or 2 | Bottom strand smooth, others barbed. | One w/post spacing of 16.5' -- 1 to 3 w/post spacing of 30'. |
| Cattle and Sheep (Use only where sheep control is necessary.) | Antelope Javelina or Deer | 4 | 38 | 15, 7, 8, 8 | Bottom strand smooth, others barbed. | One w/post spacing of 16.5' -- 1 to 3 w/post spacing of 30'. |
| Cattle and Sheep (normal conditions) | Deer, Elk, Moose, or Antelope. | 3 | 38 | 16, 10, 12 | Bottom strand smooth, others barbed. | 1 to 4 |
| Cattle and sheep (Requires greater restriction of livestock movements.) | Deer, Elk, Moose, or Antelope. | 4 | 40 | 16, 6, 6, 12 | Barbed. | 1 to 4 |
| Cattle | Bighorn Sheep* | 3 | 39 | 20, 15, 4 | Barbed. | 1 to 4 |
| Cattle, Wild Burros | Bighorn Sheep* (Use around watering area) | - | 42 | 18 to bottom rail; 34 and 42 to top of middle and top rails. | Rails 2"-3" diameter. | Line Post spacing 10 feet |
| Cattle, Wild Burros | Bighorn Sheep* | 6 | 38 | 18, 4, 4, 4 4, 4 | Bottom strand smooth, others barbed. | 1 to 2 |

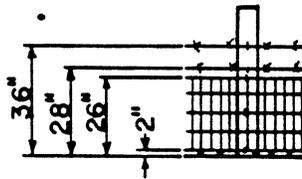
*These fences also meet antelope, and deer standards.

BLM WIRE SPACING STANDARDS
NOT TO SCALE

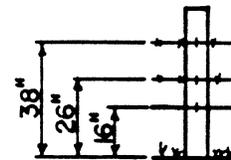
Cattle Only



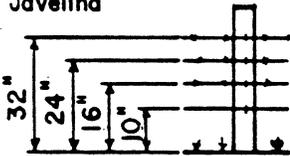
Sheep Only



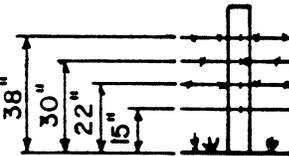
Combination Of Cattle With Antelope, Javelina Or Deer And Antelope



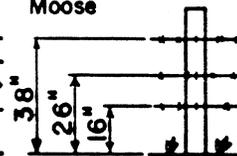
Combination Of Sheep Antelope, Deer Or Javelina



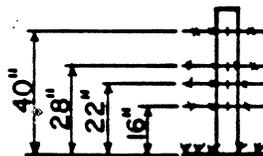
Combination Of Cattle And Sheep With Antelope, Deer Or Javelina



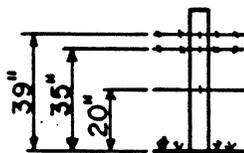
Combination Of Cattle And Sheep (Under Normal Conditions) With Deer, Elk Or Moose



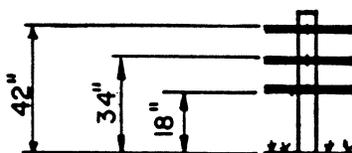
Combination Of Cattle (Requiring Greater Restriction Of Livestock Movements) With Deer, Elk, Moose, Or Antelope



Combination Of Cattle With Bighorn Sheep



For Bighorn Watering Areas; Combination Of Cattle With Burros And Bighorn Sheep



Combination Of Cattle With Burros And Bighorn Sheep

