

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

STRUCTURES FOR WILDLIFE

1. General Specifications

Procedures, technical details, and other information listed below provide additional guidance and supplement the requirements and considerations of selected components of Conservation Practice Standard 649, Structures for Wildlife.

2. Fence Markers, Vinyl Undersill

- For 5-wire fences, top and third wires shall be marked.
- Four-wire fences shall have the top 2 wires marked.
- Wires shall be marked with 3-inch strips of white vinyl house siding or similar type of marker material.
- Top wire marking should be every 4 feet, starting 2 feet from the post.
- Mark second wire from top beginning 4 feet from the post or offset from the top wire marking.
- Lower wire will contain one less marking device than the top wire.
- There will be 4, 7, or 9 markers per post spacing required for 12 to 20-foot post spacing.
- Single-strand energized fences are considered wildlife-friendly for prairie-chickens; therefore, are not eligible for fence markers.
- Fence marking should only be planned for areas within 1/2 mile to known leks, tops of ridges or upper hillslopes, and areas where prairie-chickens travel frequently.

The materials used in construction must be in accordance with and meet or exceed (size, strength, durability, and lifespan) the requirements listed. The producer/cooperator/contractor is responsible for providing adequate documentation to ensure the material specifications are met.

3. Nesting Boxes

See USDA.Gov for a list of publications with designs by partner government agencies.

<http://search.usa.gov/search?affiliate=usagov&query=nest+boxes>

4. Escape Ramps

- Reference Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide; Conservation Practice 614, Watering Facility; Watering Facility (614) Worksheet—Watering Facility Spreadsheet; Escape Ramp Tab; General Requirements.
- Construct ramp slope(s) no steeper than 45 degrees from horizontal. Supporting slopes may be steeper than 45 degrees.

5. Brush Piles

- Provide nesting habitat, resting areas, concealment and protection from predators, and protective cover against harsh weather conditions by providing loosely formed brush piles.
- Provide den sites for additional species using densely packed piles of logs, rocks, or boulders.
- Place brush piles near wildlife food sources. Good locations include along forest roads and edges, in forest openings, along field edges and corners, and beside streams and wetlands.
- Several strategically placed medium size piles (roughly 10 feet in diameter and 6 feet high) are better than one single large one.
- Keep brush piles away from houses and lawns to avoid problems with nuisance wildlife.
- Include design, specifications, and construction plans that are specified by a technical agency.
 - See USDA.Gov for a list of publications with designs by partner government agencies.
 - <http://search.usa.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=usagov&query=brush+piles+for+wildlife>

REFERENCES

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Wildlife Habitat Council. 2008. Artificial Nesting Structures. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet No 20 (revised) Washington, D.C.

Tuttle, M. D. and D. Hensley. 1993. The bat builder's handbook (2000 revision). Bat Conservation International, Austin, Texas, USA.

Nest Boxes <http://search.usa.gov/search?affiliate=usagov&query=nest+boxes>

Brush Piles for Wildlife

<http://search.usa.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=usagov&query=brush+piles+for+wildlife>

Fences

Paige, C. 2008. A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Friendly Fences. Landowner/Wildlife Resource Program, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, MT. 44 pp.