

Fencing Best Management Practices

Fencing with Purpose

Humans tend to be territorial just like other animals, but because we have opposing thumbs and a higher center of learning, we tend to mark our boundary with physical structures. There are various fencing strategies to consider, depending upon the objective a homeowner wishes to achieve: 1) to keep animals out, or 2) to keep livestock, children, and pets in. Some fences are installed for marking property boundaries to prevent any future easement conflict. Some fences are built simply because a person feels more secure if they build a fence around their domain. While it is true that good fences make for good neighbors, it is also true that fences only keep honest people out. Even spiked iron fences can be scaled by humans but is fatal to deer because they become impaled. Before fencing your property, consider that the envied foothill life that we have is characterized by the nature we observe around us, including native wildlife. Unknowingly, fencing practices can have harmful effects on these animals, particularly if they cannot get to water sources. Also, fencing can dice the landscape up into patches, reducing the connectivity necessary for migration and the dispersal of young. This page is to provide some ideas and resources to help El Dorado County residents decide which fencing strategy best suits their needs while having the least negative impact on habitat. Two big ideas: 1) *Fence only when necessary*, and 2) *One fence size does not fit all*.



Key Articles and Resources

[Crossing Paths with Wildlife in WA Towns](#)

[Fencing with Wildlife in Mind](#)

[Minimizing Impacts to Wildlife](#)

[Fencing Guidelines for Wildlife](#)

[Problem Fences](#)

[Wildlife Friendly Fencing \(MT\)](#)

[Wildlife Compatible Fencing \(AZ\)](#)

[Fencing with Wildlife in Mind \(CO\)](#)

[Fencing Guidelines for Wildlife \(WY\)](#)

[Backcountry Chronicles](#)

[Electric Fencing](#)

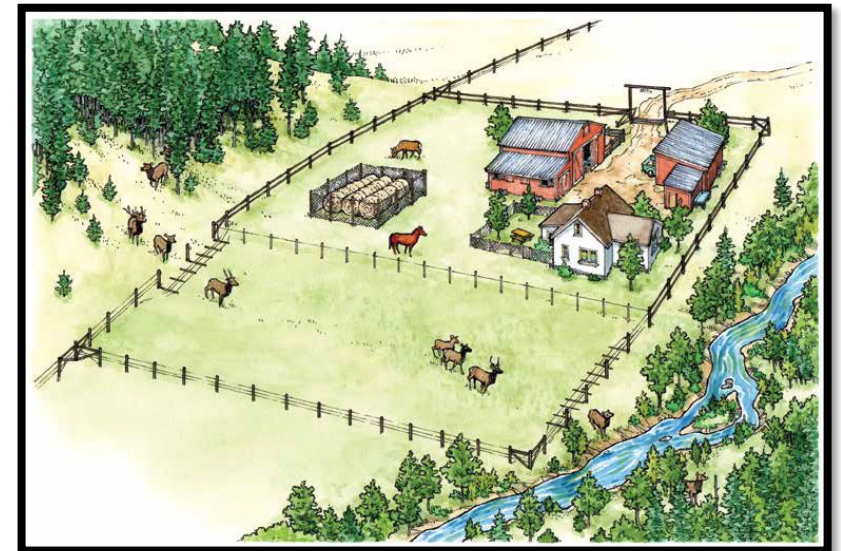
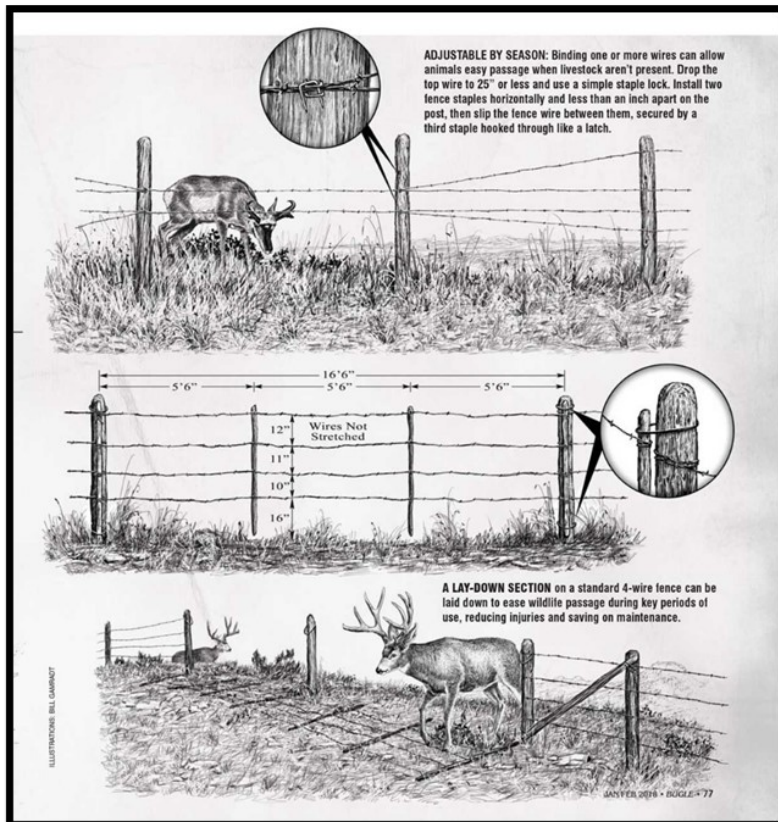
[Gate Post Death Trap](#)

[ABC report on spiked-iron fences](#)

Historic ranch and farm fences of El Dorado County

Barbed-wire fences are remnants of days gone by when cattle ranching was popular in the foothills. Yet, these types of fences are everywhere. Loose strands of wire (barbed or not) can [ensnare deer](#). Tighten the strands of wire, tie loose strands together or remove them altogether.

[An 8-foot wire mesh fence](#) is the best option for a deer exclusion fence. If using smooth wire for fencing, place top 2 wires 10-12 inches apart to prevent snaring deer legs. Barbed-wire fencing is appropriate for animal husbandry and requires a Minor Use Permit in El Dorado County.



Examples of how fences can injure wildlife

