



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MARKING FENCES TO PREVENT SAGE GROUSE COLLISIONS

1. Which fences are important to mark ?

Answer: Sage grouse are most at-risk of hitting fences that are close to leks, spring courtship dancing grounds, where males gather and fly in before dawn in the darkness. The flatter the landscape, the harder it is for the sage grouse to see the fences.

For more information, download our two-page PDF about an effective mapping tool to help target the fences that pose the highest risk for grouse strikes: [Marking High-Risk Fences Saves Sage Grouse](#)

2. **Where can I find sources for fence markers?** (either the typical white markers or the black markers that show up well against the snow.)

Answer: There are several options.

A. Your local Natural Resources and Conservation Service office (in sage grouse habitat areas) can provide information to help you find sources for markers. Find your [local NRCS office here](#) . If you live in Montana and are not part of an SGI project, but would like to mark fences and are looking for a source, the [Montana Fence Marking Partnership](#) offers free markers. (If you are interested in participating or contributing to this voluntary program, please contact Bruce Waage, NRCS-BLM: 406-657-6135 or Pete Husby, NRCS: 406-587-6902.)

B. To make your own markers, download: [How to make and install fence markers for sage grouse \(NRCS\)](#)

C. To order pre-made fence markers, we have partners on the SGI website who provide them. Our newest partner, [Pexco](#), sells the black fence markers that show up against the snow, if interested in a double-marking project for a high-elevation site (as in this [story](#)). Please feel free to peruse our [partners page](#) and Join the Partnership! (We have a form on our [partners page](#) you can fill out).

4. Where do I place the fence markers and how far apart should they be?

Answer: Clip the markers on the top wire of the fence at approximately three-foot intervals.

4. What about predator perch-deterrents? Are those a good idea to add to a fence-marking project?

Answer: Yes. Classic wood fence posts make great perches for ravens and other raptors that prey on sage grouse near leks. To deter large birds from perching but not the songbirds, either pound in a tall spike on the top of the wood post, or you can order perch deterrents from our partner [Nixalite of America](#) at a discount. (See this article, featuring Nixalite products being used in the field: [Bi-State Sage Grouse News: Three federal agencies, public come together on fence marker project to prevent sage grouse mortalities \(Feb. 11, 2014\)](#)).

5. How can I make fences wildlife-friendly for other species too?

We have the guide for you! You can download the **Landowner's Guide to Wildlife-Friendly Fences** (authored by Christine Paige). We have two versions on our website: [Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks](#) guide and the [Wyoming version](#).

6. Where do I find helpful resources in general on the Sage Grouse Initiative website?

Visit the home page of www.sagegrouseinitiative.com and click on NEWS and RESOURCES. From the pull-down menu, choose [RESOURCES](#).