

Antelope Migration Corridor Fence Retrofit Project
Landowner Meeting August 25th, 2021
Bottolfson Park, Arco 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Present: Lara Fondow – NRCS, Matt Bringhurst – USFWS, Brett Gullett – IDFG, Justin Fry – BLM, Stephanie Barnes – Butte SWCD, Larry Quist – landowner, Paula Davies – landowner, Karon and Matea Huggins – landowner, Crystal Darland – landowner, J.C. Stevenson – landowner, Jay and Deann Jensen – landowner

Lara Fondow, NRCS, gave an introductory background on the project and the local working group meetings held in the Spring that resulted in a focus on a wildlife project in the Butte SWCD and Blaine SCD areas.

Brett Gullett, IDFG, gave a presentation showing the results of a 2012 study that followed collared along their Spring and Fall migration paths through Blaine and Butte Counties. He talked about how pronghorn deal with barriers along the migration route and how fences can create a barrier, bottleneck, and/or hazard to pronghorn. The idea with wildlife friendly fences is that the pronghorn will have less barriers, a more direct route, and will not linger in one area as long. He showed movement data of pronghorn in areas with impassable fences versus areas without barriers. He also showed a graphic of a wildlife friendly design that is 48” tall with a bottom wire 18” off the ground. The top and bottom wires are smooth with two barbed wires in the middle.

Lara Fondow, NRCS, provided information on NRCS funding available for cost-share. The project will run like a regular EQIP contract. Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game also has funding to bring the cost-share up to 100% for participating landowners, distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The USFWS and IDFG have equipment to remove fences and will provide the labor.

Discussion was made with the landowners on their individual fence needs, answered questions and took note of concerns.

The next step will be for interested landowners to apply for EQIP funding and establish a plan with the NRCS and/or IDFG.