

Marking Fences to Reduce Sage-Grouse (and other bird) Collisions in Wyoming, 2010 - Tom Christiansen – Sage-Grouse Program Coordinator

Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Fence collisions have been shown to cause injury and mortality to sage-grouse and other birds in some areas. Permanent markers can reduce fence strikes by making fence wires more visible.

Recommended markers are 3” long and 1.5 inches high. They are made from undersill siding material and they easily clip on barbed-wire fence. They do not cause wear to the wire and are not an “eye-sore”. We recommend 2 markers on the top wire between fence posts spaced 1 rod (16ft) apart.

Free markers are being made available via the attached application to private land owners for use on private and state lands in Wyoming based a priority ranking that considers (but is not restricted to): 1) the property is within a defined Wyoming Sage-Grouse Core Area; 2) the fence is near a documented sage-grouse lek; 3) the fence cuts across winter habitat or is adjacent to a riparian area or field used by grouse in the summer; 4) documented fence strikes. Markers will available until the supply is exhausted. Funding for the markers was made available through the Wyoming State Legislature’s approval of the 2008 budget for local sage-grouse projects. The Niobrara Conservation District and Wyoming Game and Fish Department administer the project.

A simple form will be provided to those receiving markers so results can be reported. Markers may not be sold.

Anyone wishing to mark fences but not interested in participating in this program can purchase markers at <http://www.fireflydiverters.com> or construct their own using instructions from http://www.suttoncenter.org/fence_marking.html .

