

Conservation Study Forum's
Recommendations for
FENCES IN WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Background

Most species of wildlife need to be able to move freely across the landscape in order to access the resources they need to survive and reproduce. One of the biggest impacts humans have on wildlife is obstructing their movement with fences and roads. Fences, specifically, can entangle and kill wildlife if they are not built to specific standards. Given the wildlife conservation goals of both Flagstaff's Regional Plan 2030 and Coconino County's 2015 Comprehensive Plan, The Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD) recommends that new and renovated fences be built to wildlife-friendly standards within designated Wildlife Corridors. We recommend that the following standards be integrated into zoning codes as enforced by the Community Development Department.

Recommendations

- All fences would be strongly discouraged on parcels that fall within mapped ***Wildlife Linkage Boundaries*** as mapped in the Regional Plan 2030 (Map 7) and Comprehensive Plan (Natural Resources Conservation map). If an exception is made for special circumstances, fences must be built to wildlife-friendly standards (see below). These wildlife linkages represent the most complete dataset of where wildlife tend to concentrate as they move seasonally. Outside of Wildlife Linkage boundaries, parcels 1/2 acre or less would be exempt from the wildlife friendly fencing requirements.

Protection Standards

- City and County Planning staff work to update existing zoning codes as outlined above.
- "No fencing" overlay zones would be created using the Wildlife Linkages boundaries which would trigger a "no fencing" condition during project review.
- Exemptions could be granted in cases where fences are an essential component of the proposed development project. When an exemption is

made, fences must follow wildlife-friendly specifications (see below) or similar design that allows small mammals, pronghorn, elk and mule deer to move through (per AGFD review).

- We suggest one change be made to the Wildlife Linkage Boundaries so that the *Christmas Tree* neighborhood in Flagstaff be excluded (given the existing high housing and fence densities).

