

Amphibian and Reptile Exclusion Fencing Protocols

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Endangered Resources Review Program



These Amphibian and Reptile Exclusion Fencing Protocols contain information regarding how to install fencing around areas of disturbance (e.g., maintenance activities, construction site, development project) in order to prevent amphibians and/or reptiles from entering a workspace. These protocols should be used when an Endangered Resources Review (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Review.html>) has required/recommended the use of exclusion fencing; these protocols are not meant to take the place of a full Endangered Resources Review. Amphibian and reptile exclusion fencing is standard silt fencing that is installed in the following manner:

Timing of Fence Installation

- Fencing must be installed prior to any ground disturbing activities (including clearing and grubbing) and typically during the species' inactive period (see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/Herps.asp#regs> for commonly used inactive periods).

Fencing Specifications

- Fencing should typically be installed around the entire disturbance area unless suitable habitat is not present around the entire disturbance area AND approval has been received from Endangered Resources Review staff (DNRERReview@wi.gov).
- Exclusion fencing must be installed with the fence stakes placed on the construction side of the fence (this is typically opposite the normal requirement for sediment control) to prevent animals from using the stakes to maneuver over the fencing and into the disturbance area. One exception to this is the Blanding's turtle; due to the mobility of this species, fence stakes can be placed on the non-construction side of the fence.
- Fencing must be at least 24 inches high, with at least 4 inches trenched into the soil and at least 20 inches exposed above ground. Soils must be carefully compacted against both sides of the fence for its entire length to prevent animals from passing under the fence (Figure 1). If trenching is not possible due to soil conditions (e.g., rocks, tree roots), sand bags or other anchors may be used with approval from Endangered Resources Review staff (DNRERReview@wi.gov).
- Fencing should be installed with turn-arounds at the ends and at any access openings needed in the fencing, in order to redirect animals away from openings (Figures 2, 3). Access openings should be tightly secured with hay bales when construction-related activities are not occurring.

Fence Maintenance

- Fences must be inspected at least twice weekly on non-consecutive days AND after any significant rain event (defined as a ¾ inch downpour or 1.5 inches of rain in any 24-hour period). Repairs to the fencing must be made immediately and Endangered Resources Review staff should be contacted (DNRERReview@wi.gov).
- The non-construction side of the fence should be kept free of tall vegetation that could also allow animals to maneuver over the fencing.
- Fences must be maintained throughout the species' entire active period (typically outlined in the Endangered Resources Review) or until all construction related activities have been completed, whichever occurs first. If the project continues into more seasons, fencing must be maintained during the animal's active season until project completion.

Additional Requirements

- Additional sediment control fencing may be required as part of other Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources permit conditions.

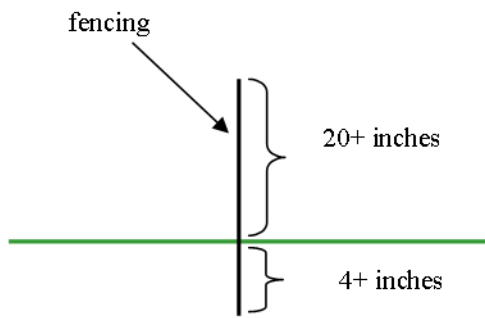


Figure 1. Side view of fencing

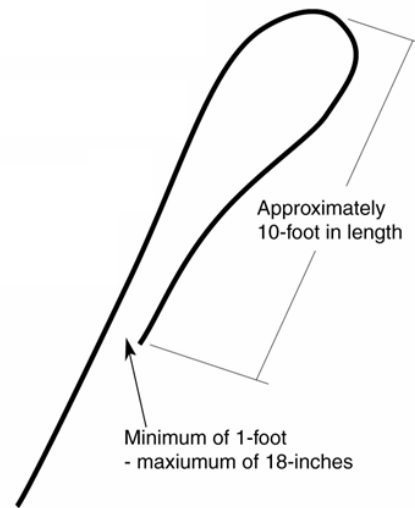


Figure 2. Overhead view of fence turn-around

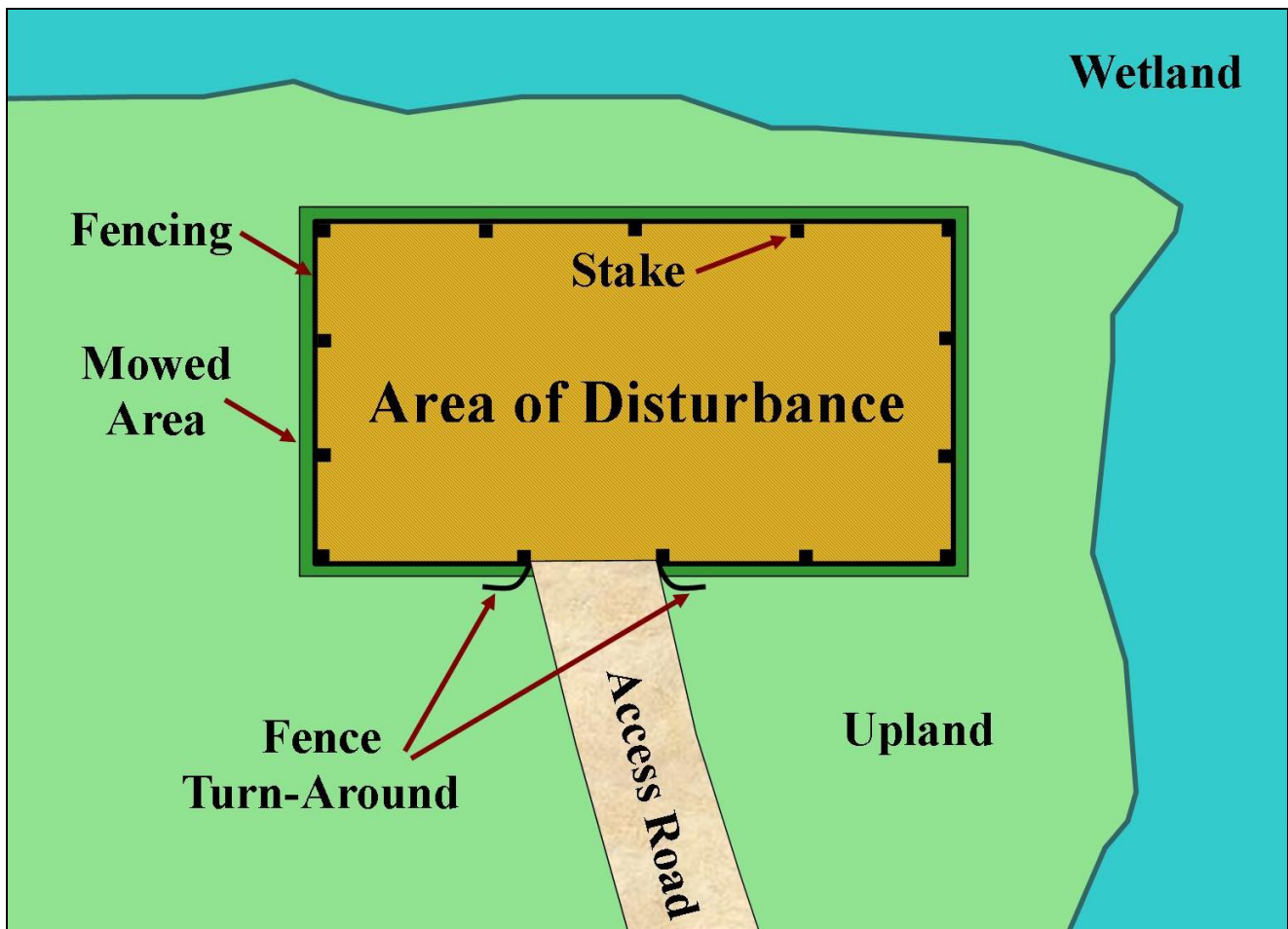


Figure 3. Site layout