



Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District

2101 South Broadway – Truth or Consequences, NM 87901 – Phone (575) 894-2212

Request for Proposals

Ammended-Black Fire-Turkey Run North Winter Pasture Fence Construction

A. INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

1.Introduction

The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District is requesting proposals for reconstruction of up to 5 miles of fence on the Turkey Run Allotment in the Black Range Ranger District in NM. This project area was affected by the 2022 Black Fire which burned over 325,000 acres of the Gila National Forest.

2.Scope of Contract

This RFP is to acquire services for replacement of up to 5 miles of existing fence within the Black Range Ranger District on the Turkey Run Allotment west boundary. All 5 miles will be a 4 strand fence (top three barbed, bottom smooth), that must meet Forest Service standards and specifications as outlined in this document. Spacing of T-Posts will be 20 feet unless terrain becomes very rough and uneven, then spacing of T-Post will be 16 feet. Three wooden stays will be placed evenly between t-posts. The middle stay can be metal. Gate locations will be at the original gate locations of the original fence. The contractor will be responsible for removing any trees or vegetation that may threaten or have fell on the fence or right of way. An eight foot right of way on each side of the fence for a sixteen foot right of way will be required. Due to topography and location, more brace posts than usual may be required. All fence material will be provided by the USFS (see table 1a. below).

During fence construction, situations may arise (i.e. weather or fire) that warrant deviations to the progression of work. The contractor will need to obtain approval from the COR for any necessary deviations. Contractor will pay close attention to any of their activities that have the potential to start a fire and will take appropriate actions to prevent and/or extinguish any starts.

If cultural resource sites are located within the project area, appropriate mitigation will be designated by the COR. Collection or disturbance of artifacts is prohibited.

This contract will include the piling of old existing fence material at the closest helicopter drop point locations in sections 10, 15, 16 and 21 of the fence project. The old material will be inventoried and weighed with recorded weights of the material at each drop point. In sections 10 and 11 of the fence project area the contractor must remove all in organic materials and dispose of them into a provided dumpster at the Beaverhead Work Center. Removal of any additional dead standing trees or trees that have fell within the existing right of way and construction of the new fence. Work is expected to begin as soon as possible and be completed no later than March 30, 2024.



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3. Project Location

Location: The Work is located on the Black Range Ranger District, Gila National Forest, New Mexico. The project legal is Township 11 South, Range 11 West, Sections 10, 11, 15, 16, & 21. (See attached map). Project area is remote. For portions fence within Sections 10 (lower portion), 15, 16 and 21 of this fence project access is by horse back and or on foot. This project area will require packing tools by hand or by pack animal. In these same sections of the project area, materials will be on site. All old materials will need to be piled in locations for helicopter to pick up. Piles of old fence material must be less than 2000 lbs. in weight.

In sections 10 and 11 of the project area, access can be by truck and or UTV. In this area of the project the contractor will be responsible for removing and transporting the old fence materials and placing the materials into a provided dumpster at the Beaverhead work center. Access to the project site is via Highway 59, Forest Road 226 to Forest Road 4072 F at Cox tank and then southwest to the project area.

4. Site Visit

Site Visit: Forest Service land near the project area is open to the public and available for contractors to self-view the sites. If an official visit is required, please contact the Allen Graves via email at allen.graves@usda.gov at (575) 894-6677 within four (4) days of receipt of this solicitation. On the fifth day site visits will not be considered. The contractor must supply their own transportation to job site (4wd vehicle appropriate) and meals, as well as be able to walk or ride horseback to the sites.

5. Period of Performance

The southern portion of the project (2.25 miles) will start at the south end of section 10 and go down slope 2.25 miles into Hoyt Canyon at the South end of the project site. This will be the most remote location. In sections 12 and 11 of the project (.75 mile) will start south of Cox trick tank in section 12 and will continue .75 miles down to Schneberger's private land. In Sections 10 and 11 of this project (2 mile) will start back at section 10 and go into section 11 to the northeast for 2 miles. (see attached maps). The start date will be negotiated with contractor and contractor will be expected to complete the project by June 30, 2024. Extensions for additional time may be granted by Sierra SWCD due to weather conditions of acts of God.

Due to weather, it is highly recommended to start the project as soon as possible to prevent delays to the contract with adverse weather conditions and possible limits set on horseback travel, to prevent resource damage.

COR inspections upon completion of fence segments will be divided into logical $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and completion for inspection efficiency.

Sequence of events

- ❖ The RFP package may be requested **October 10, 2023 through October 24, 2023**. A list of those requesting packages will be maintained in the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District office.



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- ❖ Questions on the RFP may be submitted between **October 10, 2023 and October 25, 2023**
- ❖ A site visit will be held upon request by contacting Allen Graves, information listed above in that section.
- ❖ Answers to substantial questions will be provided to all entities that requested and received RFP packages by the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District.
- ❖ Proposals shall be submitted in-person or by mail to the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District **no later than 12:00 pm MST Friday October 27, 2023.**
- ❖ Proposals shall be opened and evaluated at **9:00 am on October 30, 2023.**
- ❖ Applicants may be short listed for interview purposes with the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District.
- ❖ Successful Applicant(s) will be notified no later than **October 31, 2023.**

B. PROPOSAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Respondents shall comply with all instructions and provide all information requested. Failure to do so may disqualify a proposal.
- ❖ A letter of transmittal must accompany the proposal identifying the submitting entity.
- ❖ Proposals shall be prepared in print or pen and ink.
- ❖ Proposals may be bound.
- ❖ The person signing the proposal shall initial any correction in ink.
- ❖ Five (5) copies of the proposal shall be submitted.

Proposal Format

To facilitate review, it is mandatory that proposals be presented in the following format. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

- ❖ An introduction.
- ❖ Description of the firm proposing to contract with the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District. Please state your general background, resources and relevant experience.
***Please include any and all experience with fence packing and construction in areas of national forests!
- ❖ Please provide a description of any equipment that you will be using to complete this work and your staff.
- ❖ Please provide appropriate details of similar projects completed by your company in the past three years.
- ❖ May we contact your customers for references? If yes, please provide names and phone numbers. Please include any additional references.
- ❖ Describe how you plan to complete this project including a work plan and timeline. The scope of work should be based upon the scope of work attached to this request. If you plan to subcontract, please provide a list of those subcontractors.



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- ❖ Please provide a budget for the project, identified as a cost per mile of fencing, not a total for the entire project, as the mileage may decrease based upon price with available budget for this project. This will be finalized in the contract with the chosen Contractor(s).

Further definitions for requirements listed above:

- 1.1 *Work Plan:* The work plan shall describe how the contractor plans to perform the project work. Include methods, personnel and equipment.
- 1.2 *Work Schedule:* The work schedule shall describe when the contractor plans to perform the project work. Include methods, personnel and equipment.
- 1.3 *Progress Schedule:* The contractor will prepare and submit a practical schedule showing the order in which the contractor will perform the work and the dates on which the contractor contemplates starting and completing each task.

C. GOVERNMENT/ CONTRACTOR FURNISHED MATERIALS

1. Government Furnished Property (GPF)

The Forest Service will provide the following fence materials for the project:

Table 1a. Fence (5 mi)

Amount/Number	Material Type
60	Barbed Wire
20	Smooth Wire
1320	Steel T Posts/Clips
38	Steel H-Brace Sets (3)
4000	Wood Fence Stays
3	14 gauge stay wire (10 lb/roll)
20 ft	½ inch pvc pipe for elk jumps

Extra materials are provided for the installation of wire tie downs, gates and water gaps.



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All Forest Service provided fence materials for the project will be on site within sections 10 (lower portion), 15, 16 and 21. In Sections 10 and 11 of the project area the contractor will be responsible for picking up materials from the Beaverhead Work Center and transporting the materials to the project site. Protection, storage, and proper use of fence materials will become the responsibility of the contractor upon the contractor reaching the project area. The contractor shall provide the safekeeping

method during the completion of AD Form 107 which must be acceptable to the COR and/or designated inspectors. Any other fence materials signed-out by the contractor that are lost, stolen, or improperly used shall be replaced with in-kind material, by the contractor, at the contractor's expense. All remaining unused or excess fence materials shall be returned to the COR or designee(s) for verification and release from the AD-107 form (at the District Office).

2. Contractors Furnished Materials

The contractor shall furnish all expertise, tools, equipment, labor, supervision, transportation, lodging, and safety equipment necessary to complete the project. Any supplementary fence materials (ie. staples, nails, etc.), in addition to what is documented above, as supplied by the government, will be furnished by the contractor. The contractor will also provide any other miscellaneous materials that may be needed to construct the new fence. Cost for these items must be incorporated in the proposal.

D. SPECIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

1. Working Hours

No restrictions.

2. Camping/Camp Operations

The following must be followed if the contractor is planning on camping:

- The Permittee will allow for camping on his private land where there is watering and livestock facilities available to the contractor.
- Campsite locations must be pre-approved in writing by the COR.
- Camps may be set up a maximum of five (5) days prior to use. Camps and equipment shall be removed within five (5) days after use unless approved in advance by the appropriate COR.
- When camps are dismantled, native materials shall be scattered or placed so they blend into the natural setting. Campsites will be restored to as natural a condition as possible.
- All camps will be kept in a clean and orderly condition.
- Temporary pit toilets are required at camps with five (5) or more



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people that are occupied longer than one day.

- Theft or loss will be at the expense of the contractor. Leave No Trace (LNT) Outdoor Ethics- Contractors will ensure the following LNT ethics are observed:
- Pack it in, Pack it out.
- Inspect campsites and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash.
- Do not damage historical structures or remove any artifacts.
- If cooking fires should be necessary, keep fires small. Use only dead and downed wood. Put out campfires completely. When fires are out, restore campfire area back to original condition.
- No feeding of wildlife will be permitted.
- All food supplies and trash must be appropriately stored if camping area should be left unattended.

3. Vehicle Use

No vehicle use is allowed in the wilderness.

4. Livestock Operations on Forest

The following must be followed if the contractor is planning on using livestock for riding or packing in fence materials:

- Temporary electric fence corrals are authorized for control of livestock. Such corrals will be located away from trails and water, and the electric fence and all hardware will be removed after each use.
- Tied Livestock must be high lined. High lines must be tied to trees greater than 8" DBH

5.Fence Completion: The contractor will GPS the entire fence when completed and send the GPS data to the GIS specialist at the Gila National Forest Supervisors office and the Natural Resource Director at Sierra SWCD.

6.Insurance

❖ Insurance Limits of Liability:

General liability-for bodily injury and property damage - \$1,000,000.00

Workers Compensation and Employers' Liability-\$1,000,000.00

❖ Proof of Insurance

The contractor shall be obliged to carry insurance to cover claims for damages with an insurance company agreeable to the Sierra SWCD Black Fire Projects, including packing of fencing materials and construction of fence. Comprehensive General Liability shall name the Sierra SWCD Project and Project Manager as additionally insured. In the event insurance coverage is inadequate to cover any damages



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caused as a result of this contract, contractor will hold the Sierra SWCD, its project managers, employees and Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District board members harmless as to excess over insurance coverage.

Contractor shall provide written proof of the following continuous coverage prior to commencing the project. Types of coverage include but are not limited to--Workers Compensation Coverage, Employers liability (1,000,000) and comprehensive General Liability (1,000,000) as well as Comprehensive Auto Liability Coverage including: 1) Owned or leased vehicles 2) Non-owned vehicles of any sort; 3) Hired vehicles of any sort. Fencing may begin as soon as contract is issued. Actual starting date will be negotiated with entity(s) that is awarded a contract.

7. Taxes

Applicable Taxes--Contractor shall be solely responsible for and shall pay all applicable State of New Mexico severance taxes, excise taxes, and gross receipts taxes in connection with this agreement and the operations conducted there under. These taxes shall not be billed above and beyond the amounts listed in the contract.

Contact Person:

Jennie Bierner-Shepperd

Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District

businessmanager@sierraswcd.com (preferred)

575-894-2212, ext 109

E. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

1. Prior Experience – Maximum 45 points

Experience and expertise with projects related to constructing fence in designated wilderness areas of the Gila or other national forests. Fifteen points per year for experience will be given.

2. Staff and Resources to Perform Services including Equipment – Maximum 45 points.

3. Plans for Completion of Project, availability and start date– Maximum 30 points

4. Price – Maximum 30 points

Lowest bid – 30 points

Second lowest bid – 25 points

Third lowest bid – 15 points



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All others will receive 0 points

Evaluation and Awards

- ❖ The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District will assign a proposal review team. The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District in accordance with the proposed Evaluation Criteria will review all proposals.
- ❖ Ratings for each of the Evaluation Criteria are listed above with each item. Only those with a score of 120 or greater will be eligible for further evaluation and the short list for interviews.
- ❖ The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District reserves the right to accept all or a portion of an entity's proposal, to reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request and may negotiate in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the State of New Mexico. The Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District reserves the right to make an award without further discussion or negotiation of proposals.
- ❖ This RFP may be cancelled at any time and any and all proposals may be rejected whole or in part when Black Fire Recovery Project determines such action to be in the best interest of the state of New Mexico.
- ❖ This RFP may result in multiple awards of contracts.



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- ❖
- ❖ † Any contract resulting from this RFP may be increased or renewed upon written agreement by both parties.
- ❖

Contracts

Final scope of work, budget and schedule of work will be negotiated with the Sierra Soil & Water Conservation District and the successful applicant prior to finalizing the contract.

A pre-job meeting will be held prior to start of project to discuss any issues with the job sites with contractor by the project manager and/or her designee.

E. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR FENCE CONSTRUCTION

1.1 General Description for Reconstruction:

The existing fence will be replaced with new material by following the old fence lines in as straight a line as possible. A rock drill will be required where it is not possible to dig or drive posts. Chain saws and gas-powered post pounders can be used for this project. Contractor shall provide the tools listed above

1.2 Fence Wire: The top three wires will be barbed and the bottom wire smooth.

All wire will be tightly stretched. Good judgment will be used in determining the tension. When ending wire at a brace post, the wire will be



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wrapped around the post twice then secured by wrapping back on the stretched wire. The tie shall be made on the center line of the post to avoid the turning and slackening tendency. No more than one-quarter mile will be stretched at one time. Wire spacing will be as follows:

- First (bottom smooth wire)- 16 inches above ground
- Second- 8 inches above bottom wire (24" from ground)
- Third- 8 inches above 2nd wire (32" from ground)
- Fourth (top)- 12 inches above 3rd wire (44" from ground)

Allowable spacing tolerance will be +/- 2" from designated heights and spacing's. In some areas more wires may need to be added to achieve the bottom or the top wire height. Weights will be attached to fence in low spots to prevent lift up of t-posts, refer to Figure 4. All strands will be tight.

1.3 Stays: Three wooden fence stays will be placed in each panel evenly between posts. Allowable spacing tolerance will be 6" +/- from line post. The bottom of each wood stay will rest solidly on the ground and be tied to each line wire with galvanized tie wire. Stays will be secured tightly to each line wire by wrapping the tie wire twice around the line wire then brought around the front and twisted together (see Figure 2). rest solidly on the ground and be tied to each line wire with galvanized tie wire. Stays will be secured tightly to each line wire by wrapping the tie wire twice around the line wire then brought around the front and twisted together (see Figure 2).

1.4 Posts: Steel posts will be placed 20 feet apart. Posts will be no taller than 48" above ground (+/- 2" allowable height tolerance). Allowable spacing tolerance will be 18" if obstacles occur that do not allow posts to be driven the required depth. No offset of the fence line will be allowed if the posts do need to be moved to avoid obstacles. Where solid rock is encountered below the surface, posts shall extend a minimum of nine inches into the rock or stop when the top of the anchor plate is a minimum of four inches below the ground surface. Un-drivable posts will be embedded by utilizing a rock drill. Line wire will be fastened to the steel posts at the specified spacing using galvanized fence post clips. Clips will be clamped down securely on both clip ends and snug on the steel post as to allow no up and down movement of the wire along the steel post.

Trees will **not** be used as brace posts or corner posts. The contractor may slab to a juniper tree when a slight change in direction occurs. Dead or rotten trees or any live or dead pine trees may not be used to slab. The slabs must be no smaller than 2"x2"x44" and must be applied with aluminum nails to a tree in which bark has been removed(see Figure 3).



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- 1.5 *H-Braces*: H braces will be provided by the Forest Service on site. accompanied with appropriate attachment hardware. They will be installed every quarter mile (and or every end of fence rolls) and need to be pounded it at a depth of 36 inches, and a height of 4' above ground. Allowable depth tolerance will be +/- 6" of requirement. Additional H-brace post sets in addition to the braces every quarter mile will be necessary where the fence changes direction.
- 1.6 *Gates*: Gates will be placed in locations where exiting gates have been established in the old fence. Gates specified for only livestock movement will be 8 feet wide. All gates will be constructed with four strands of barbed wire and three wooden stays (8 foot gate) and four wooden stays (16 foot gate). All gate wires must be pre-stretched. In some instances, metal gates may be provided.
- 1.7 *Depression or Watergap*: When the fence line crosses a depression or drainage, a brace is to be constructed on either side of the depression or drainage. Additional strands of barbed wire will be required as well as the use of rock "dead men" of sufficient weight to adequately close the gap and securely hold the fence down (see Figure 4).
- 1.8 *Elk Jumps*: The fence will be constructed in active elk habitat. It is required that elk jumps be installed at obvious wildlife trails, to minimize damage to the fence. The elk jump may be constructed by simply adding a 1" heavy poly pipe (supplied) over the top wire between two t posts (16'ft apart). This is accomplished by threading the top wire thorough the pipe section and continuing with construction as normal.
- 1.9 *Right of Way Clearance*: The fence right of way will be cleared eight foot on each side of the fence for a sixteen-foot right of way.

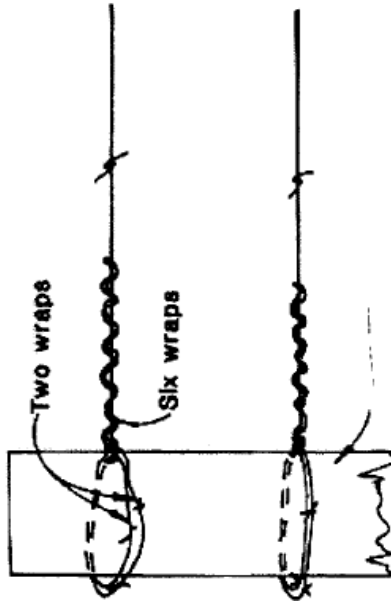
F. ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

Figure 1. Splicing and Tying



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Barbed- or smooth-wire splice and end ties.

Splices in the wire are made by wrapping one end of the wire back around itself six times to form an eye at the end of the wire. The other wire is placed through the eye and wrapped back around itself at least six times. The first six wraps are adjacent to each other to form neat, tight wraps.

Ends of line wires should be wrapped twice around the post, stapled, and twisted back on the stretched line wire six times at about a right angle



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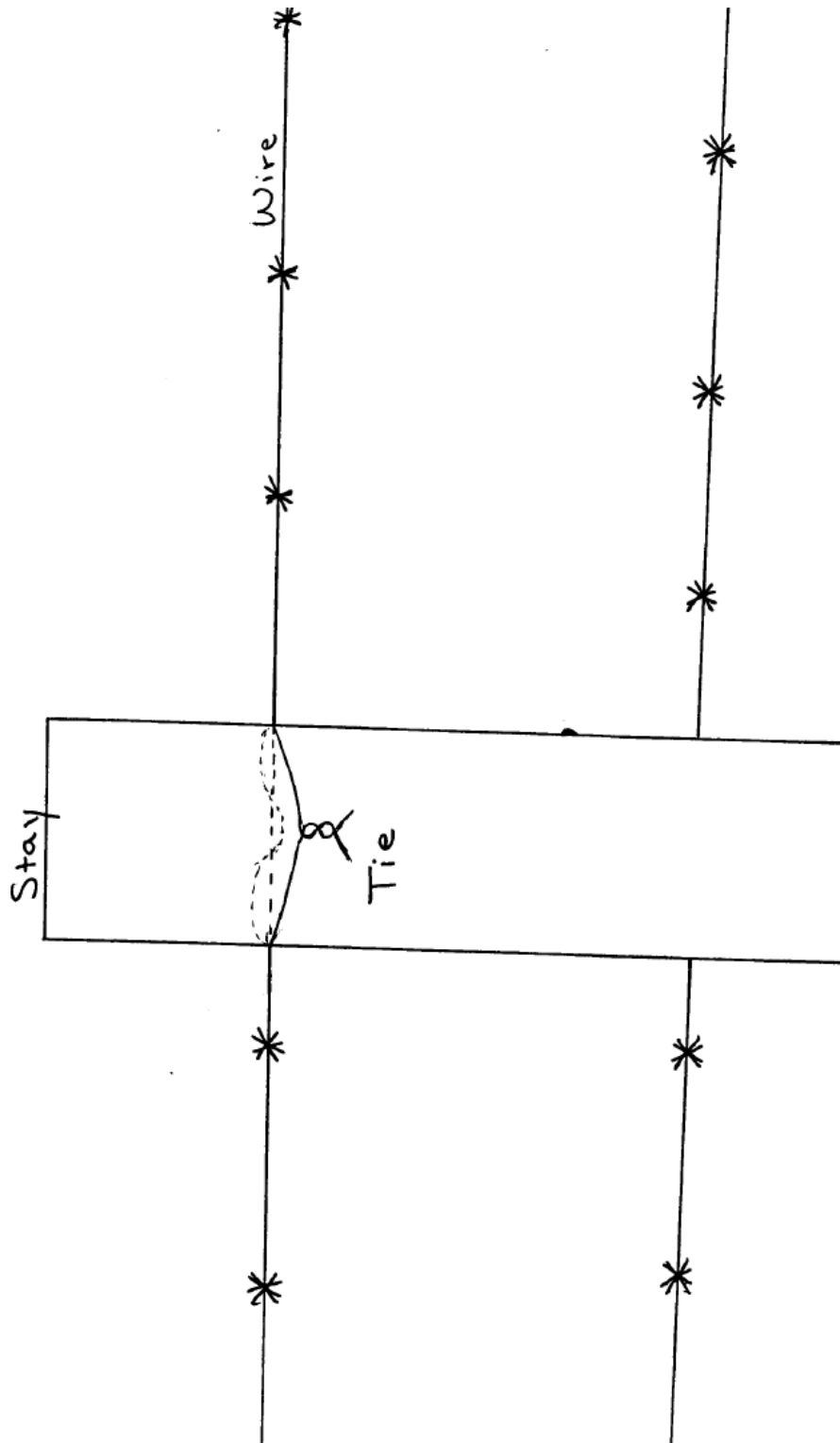
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Figure 2. Tying Stays



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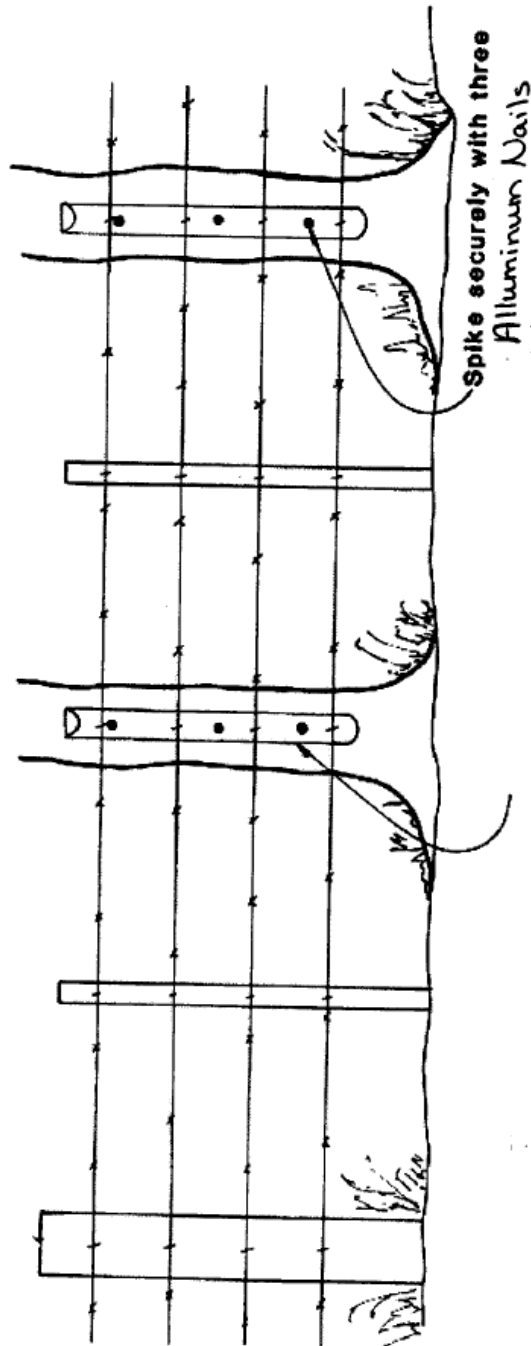




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Figure 3. Slabbing on Trees



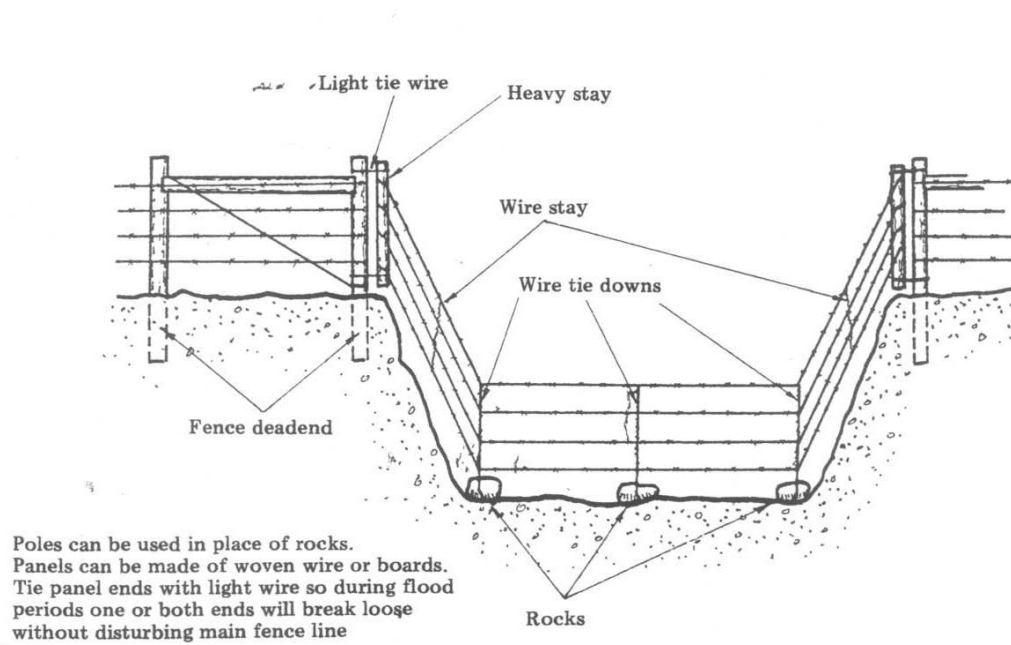
-Nailer strips used to fasten wire to trees.



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Figure 4. Depression/Water



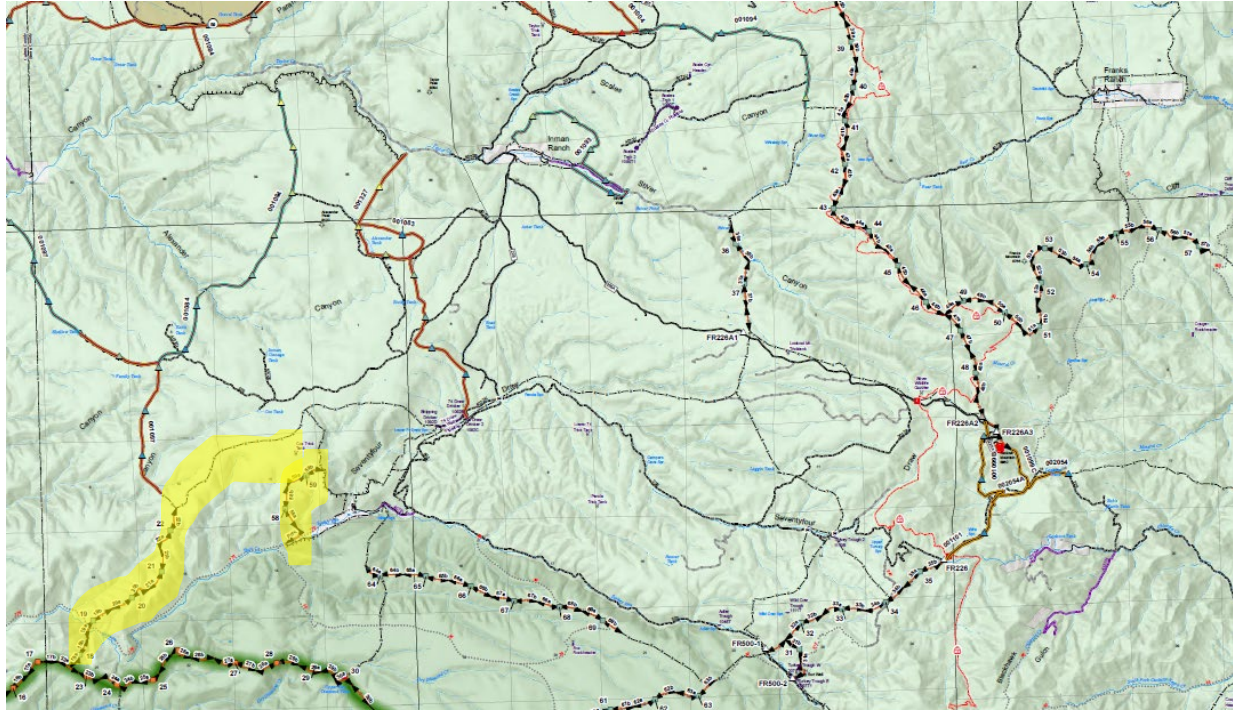
Brace design and placement considering changes in topography.



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Vicinity map of project area. Project highlighted in yellow.





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Map of project area 5miles

