

ELECTRICITY IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT; THE SHOCKING TRUTH!^{TWS}

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Behavior, movements, and survival of several wildlife species have been successfully managed with electrified fences. Electric fences have protected endangered black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) from predation by excluding coyotes (*Canis latrans*) and badgers (*Taxidea taxus*) from >1,000 acre black-tailed prairie dog complexes for months in Montana and South Dakota. Several large carnivore species have been successfully excluded from human conflict sites along Montana's Rocky Mountain East Front with a variety of electrically charged wires and configurations. Wolves (*Canis lupus*) have been temporarily contained at release sites inside electrified enclosures to increase establishment success in Arizona and Montana. Wildlife management with electric fences is not a panacea but has been useful in a variety of situations. This presentation reviews our successes and the limitations of these techniques so that others may learn from our experiences with electric fencing in wildlife management.