

Nimitzs' Adjustable 3D Wildlife Fence

Date:
March, 2012

3 D Fence Cooperators Over 3 Year Project:

2009/2010 Winter:
Sandra Burton

2010/2011 Winter:
Rick Kantz
Glenn Hogberg
Bill Wilson
Sandra Burton

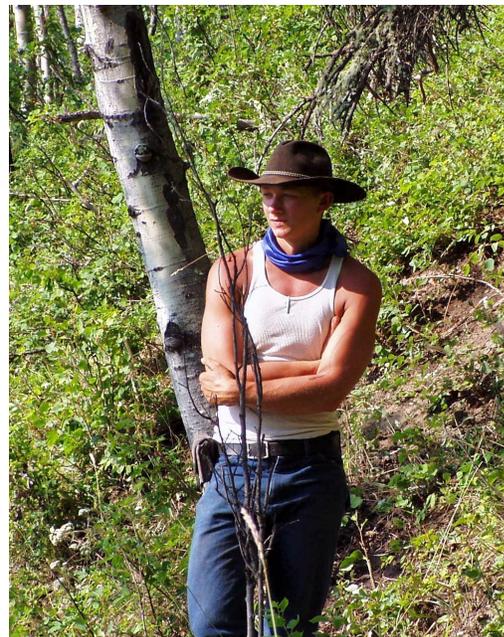
2011/2012 Winter:
Freddy Schneider
Michael Nimitz
Pat O'Reilly
Sarah Davies
Rick Kantz
Glenn Hogberg
Bill Wilson

Original Objectives

The aerial view (photo below) illustrates the location of the 3 D fenced area for the hay stackyard in relation to the movement of wildlife through the Kiskatinaw River Ranch.

The objectives that Michael Nimitz had in mind were:

1. Keep wildlife out of the hay stackyard.
2. Set up the wires in a way that could be adjusted for snow height and winter conditions.
3. Invest in a gate that would be wildlife proof but quick to open and close for daily use.



Contacts:

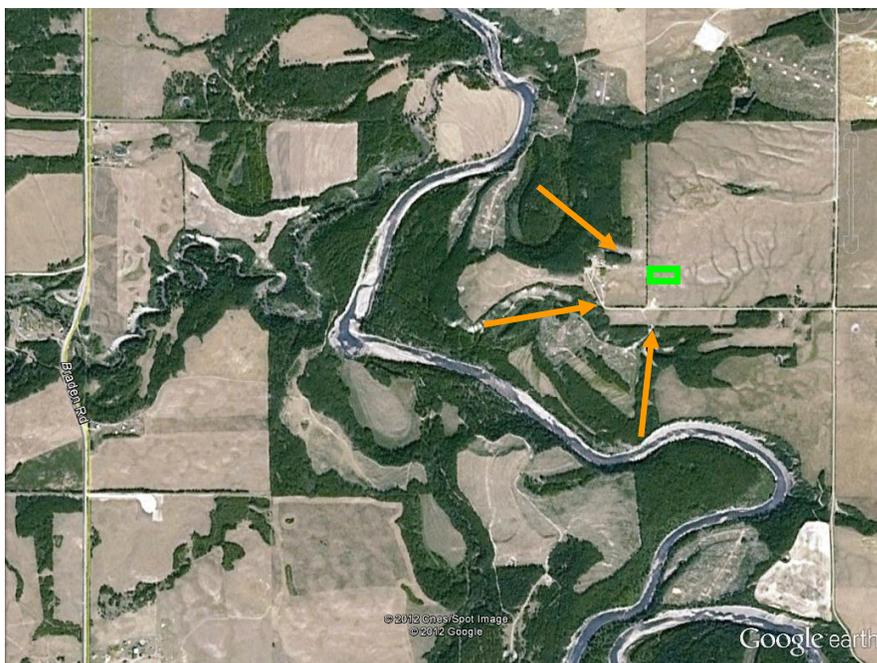
Michael or Ernest Nimitz
(250) 843-2300

Sandra Burton or Talon Johnson
(250) 789- 6885

" We wanted to be able to adjust the ABS hollow sleeves on the posts depending on the amount of snow."

*Michael Nimitz,
Sunrise Valley, BC*

Air photo (to the right) illustrating:
 Nimitzs' 3 D fencing demo
 Wildlife traffic.



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How was the 3D fence set up?

In the winter of 2011/2012 Michael Nimitz built a 3 dimensional wildlife fence around the hay stackyard near their ranch house. He used 8 foot long x 3 to 4 inch diameter posts for the inside fenceline. Michael wasn't sure the 3D concept would work so he added 5 strands of wire.

The outside fenceline was constructed in two ways. For 3 sides of the enclosure, ABS hollow pipe sleeves were placed over smaller diameter posts. The idea was that the sleeves could be raised as snow depth increased. (*photo to the left*). For the side that butted up against an existing older fenceline, the older fence was used as the shorter height outer line. (*photo below to the right*). It was impressive the way Michael made good use of existing fences and materials that were easily accessible for their ranch.

How were the gates setup?

Since this was a main hay stackyard for feeding for much of the winter, Michael wanted gates that were quick and easy to open on a daily basis. He installed tall heavy metal gates, and added page wire to fill a gap at the bottom.

How much did this fence cost?

The enclosure was about 100' by 100'. The total cost for posts, and all hardware, (including wire, insulators, corner bracing, gate handles, tighteners) was \$500. The metal gates were 6 x 12 feet HiHog Heavy Duty gates costing \$270 each, but they paid for themselves in time savings when feeding.

To understand the true actual costs of installing this fence, the cost of labour to dig in all the posts and the use of the electric fencer also need to be included. A future **Forage Fact** will compare costs & benefits of several types of wildlife fencing.



Did it keep the wildlife out?

The Nimitz family report that "There wasn't the usual number of elk, deer and moose this year as there has been in the past. But this fence should keep them out of our hay." (*photo to left*).

Where to next?

Michael feels that this demo was worthwhile and the fence and gate system should last many years. With future wildlife pressure, it will be interesting to compare this 3 D stackyard fence to an adjacent, more expensive, traditional 8 foot page wire stackyard. Although the funding for the 3D Fence Project has ended, results will continue to be shared with members.

Compiled by: Michael Nimitz and Sandra Burton in Mar 2012.

3D Wildlife Fencing Project Funding Partners:

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