



## Fence Projects in Idaho Benefit Wildlife, Local Businesses



Proper fence height is important .

Elk, deer, pronghorn and other wildlife often depend on large expanses of public lands to roam and migrate. In some areas, however, old livestock fences do not allow passage of wild animals. The BLM in Idaho is using ARRA funds to replace old fences with new wildlife-friendly fences that allow wildlife to move under or over them as they travel between habitat areas.

ARRA funding is being used to complete 30 fence projects across Idaho. A total of \$874,000 is funding modification of more than 190 miles of fencing in order to meet current wildlife protection standards. Wild-



Youth Corps crews help install wildlife-friendly fences.

life-friendly design features include proper wire spacing, removal of extra wires and the use of smooth wire where appropriate. These measures will allow animals to pass over or under the fences without becoming snagged.

All contracts for fence work have been awarded, and work is ongoing as of Spring 2010. The majority of contracts under this project have been awarded to local Idaho contractors. Several of the projects will employ Youth Corps crews. A contractor based in Grangeville, Idaho, whose crew built fence in rugged terrain in the



This new fence allows wildlife to pass over or underneath.

newly designated North Fork Owyhee Wilderness noted that the contract enabled the company to sustain their business and remain self-sufficient. Fence projects are extremely labor-intensive, especially in wilderness areas, where motorized equipment is prohibited and materials must be packed in and out by hand.