

Virtual Fencing

What is Virtual Fencing?



Virtual Fencing is a relatively new technology that allows ranchers and land managers control the movement and distribution of livestock across rangeland without the need for physical fencing.



The virtual fence uses GPS through collars and base stations, allowing for real time tracking of movement.

Benefits

Grazing Management

Cheaper Maintenance

Coexistence with wildlife

Post-Fire Recovery and Control

Riparian Area Recovery and Conservation

Towers

- The base station itself is 7' tall, with a solar panel.
- The antenna on the base station is 20' tall, with no horizontal cross bars for perching or nest facilitation.
- While there may be opportunity for movement of towers, they are anchored extensively, so most will be placed in a more permanent manor.
- In other cases, virtual towers may be retrofitted to trailers for easier movement.



Concerns

Perching

Height

Current Livestock Grazing Management

- Livestock operations and agricultural activities and infrastructure related to ranch and farm businesses (e.g., water troughs, fences, pivots, etc.) are not included in the SEP's definition of Debit Project types.
- Section 7.5 of the State of Nevada Sage Grouse Conservation Plan
 - The State supports the proper management of livestock grazing on allotted public lands in Nevada.
 - The State encourages private landowners to develop and implement conservation plans that serve to maintain or strengthen financial viability that also work to conserve or protect the renewable natural resources of Nevada, including sage-grouse and other wildlife species habitat.
 - The State supports the proper management of livestock grazing on allotted public lands in Nevada. Davies et al. (2011, p. 2575) concluded based on literature review that "Though appropriately managed grazing is critical to protecting the sagebrush ecosystem, livestock grazing per se is not a stressor threatening the sustainability of the ecosystem
 - Today, by allowing for the authorized use of proper and targeted livestock grazing on public lands, private landowners and wildlife habitat managers can serve to protect or even benefit each other if managed properly (by reductions in fuels, targeted grazing of specific habitats and cheatgrass, etc.).

Discussion
