

Wildlife in the Urban Interface




Jeff Schalau

Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources

University of Arizona

Cooperative Extension, Yavapai County





What is Wildlife?

- Animals, fish, birds.....
- Animals with intrinsic, social, cultural and economic values....
- Source of food and a vital part of the cultures and economies...
- Indicator of the health of that environment...
- Do or should we assume a stewardship responsibility for wildlife





What Does Wildlife Need?

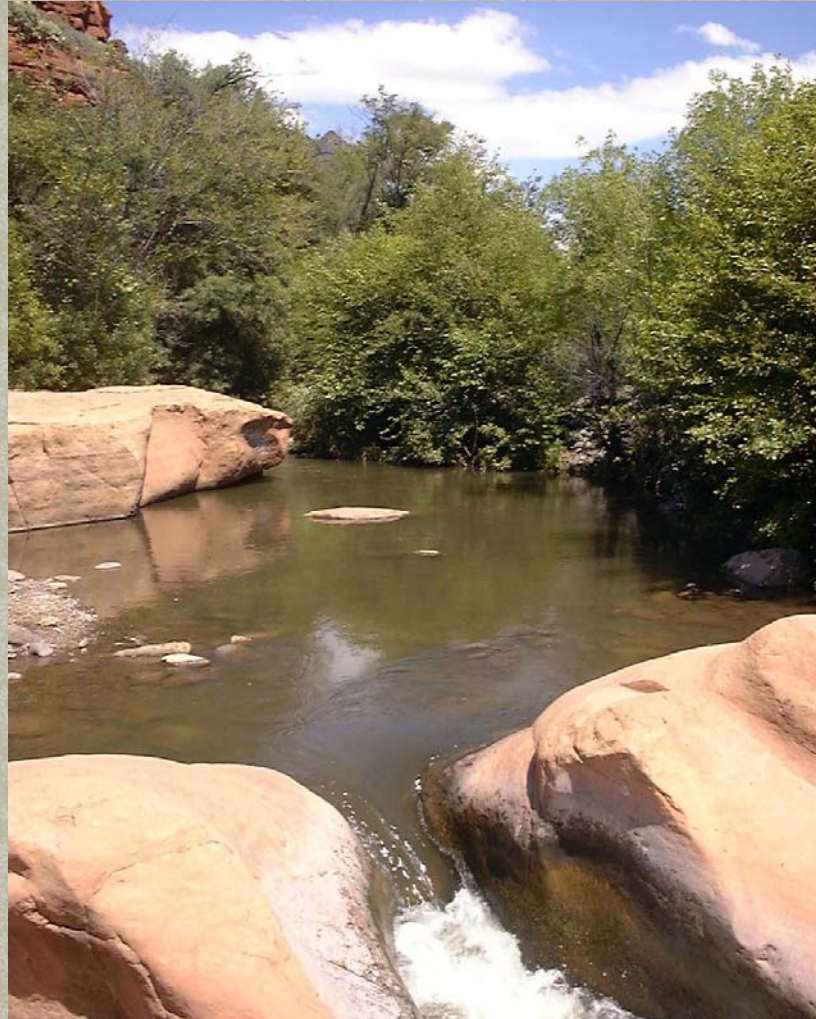
■ Food





What Does Wildlife Need?

■ Water





What Does Wildlife Need?

■ Space





What Does Wildlife Need?

- Cover (shelter)





What Does Wildlife Need?

■ Arrangement





Elements of Habitat

1. Food
2. Water
3. Space
4. Shelter
5. Arrangement





Habitat can be changed...

- Altering any one habitat element will change how wildlife uses the area
- To attract, learn the habitat preferences of the desired species and add or enhance those elements
- To discourage, learn the habitat preferences of the unwanted species and remove or modify those elements
- Large gravel areas and/or mowed lawns are not attractive to wildlife





Wildlife Enhancements

- Feeders
- Water features
- Nectar producing plants
- Diverse structures
- Preserve dead and down material
- Bird/bat houses
- Wildlife friendly fences
- Exclude dogs/cats
- Native landscaping
- Allow plants to grow naturally
- Be patient

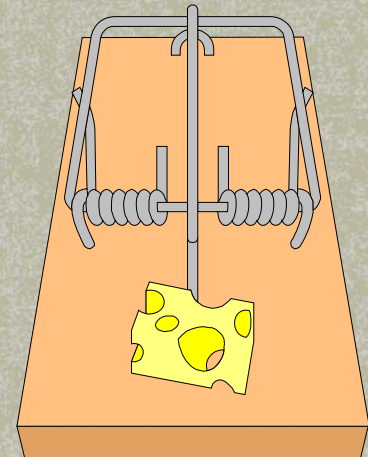




Dealing with Problem Wildlife

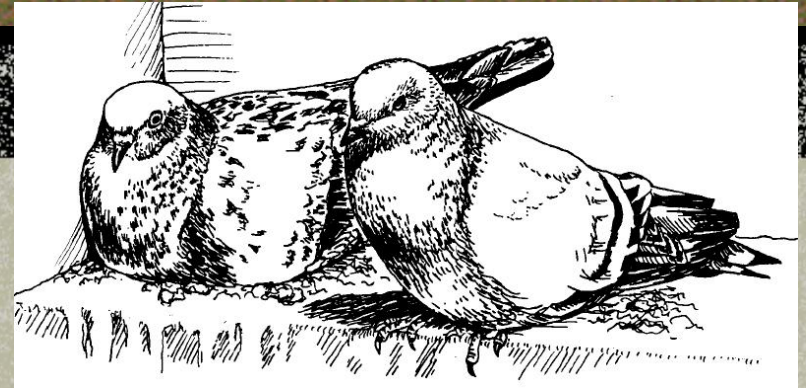
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

1. Correctly identify the pest
2. Employ prevention options
3. Select a population control strategy
4. Monitor for reinfestation





Legal Status



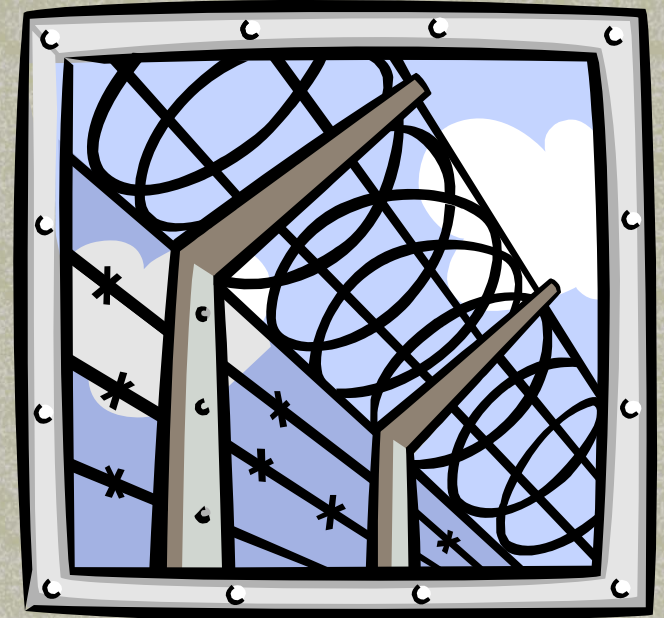
- In Arizona, most wildlife species are protected
- Some are not, these include:
 - Wood rats (Pack rats)
 - Norway rats
 - House mice
 - Ground squirrels
 - Pocket gophers
 - Rock doves (Pigeons)
 - Starlings
 - English sparrows (House sparrows)





Prevention Measures

- Habitat modification
- Exclusion
- Frightening
- Repellents



Prevention is Long Term

Control is Short Term





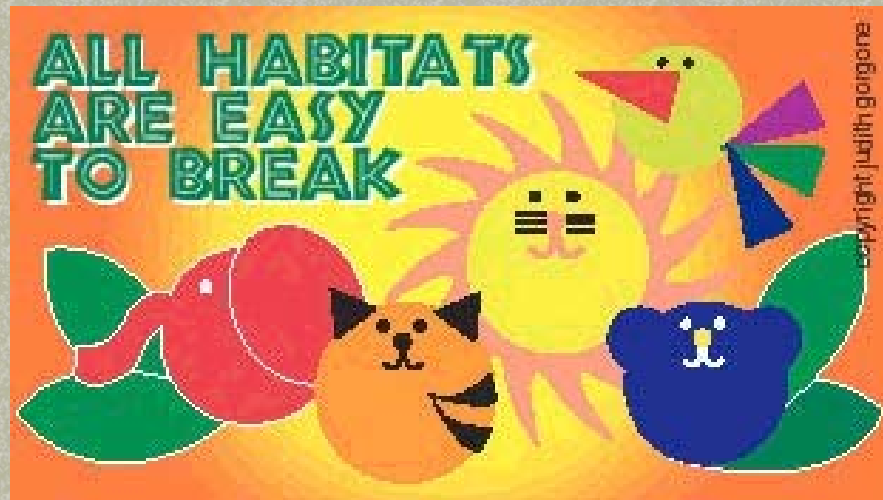
Habitat Modification

No Food

No Water = No Pests

No Shelter

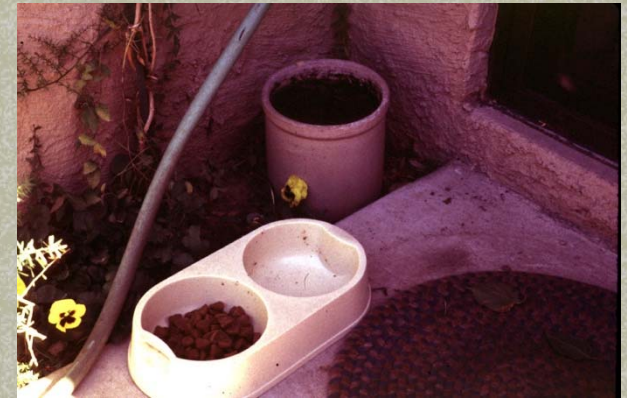
No Access





Habitat Modification

- Removal of Attractants
- Limit Shelter
- Sanitation





Exclusion

- Fences
- Barriers





Frightening

- Sight and/or Sound
- Habituation



Repellents

- Odor
- Taste
 - Pain
 - Malaise
- Touch



All repellents work some of the time

No repellents work all of the time





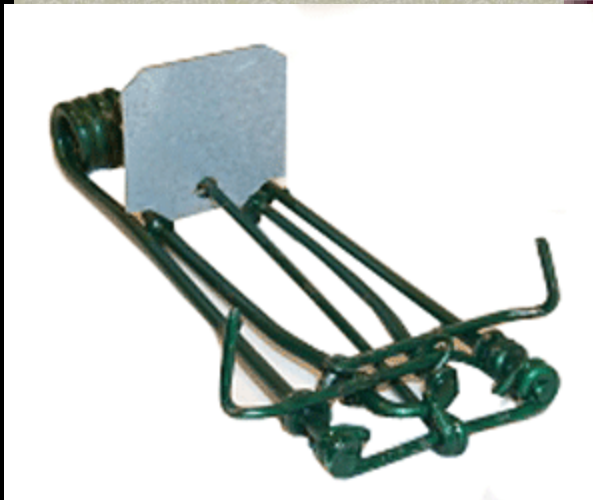
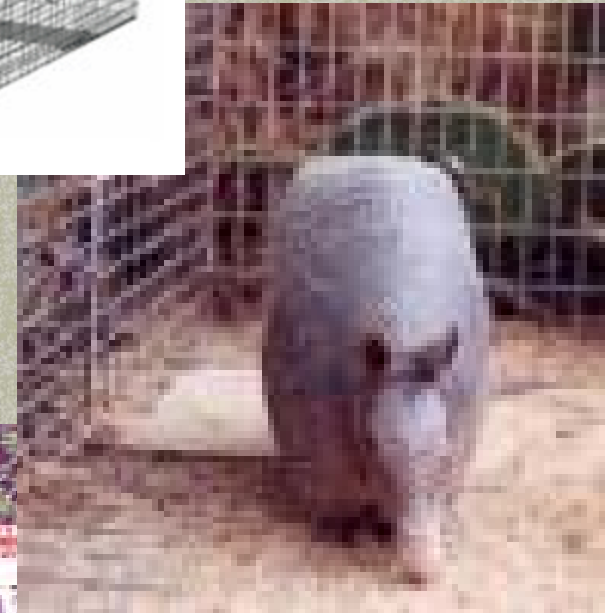
Population Control Measures

- Trapping (lethal or live)
- Toxicants
- Fumigants
- Shooting
- Biological Control



Trapping

- Non-lethal
- Lethal



Toxicants

- General or Restricted Use
- Read Label
- Hazards
 - Non-Target
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Environment

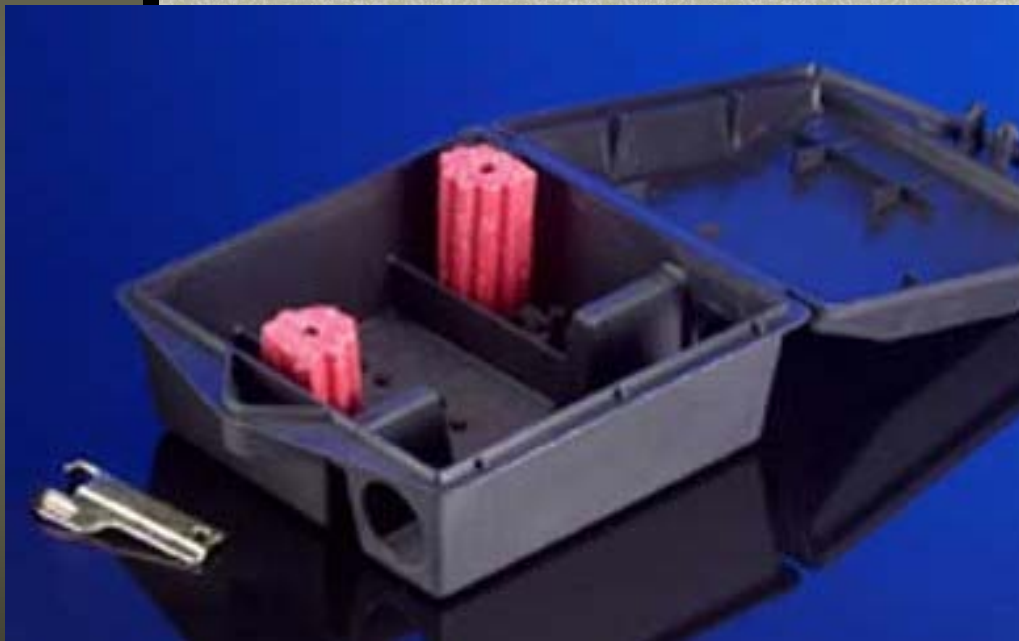
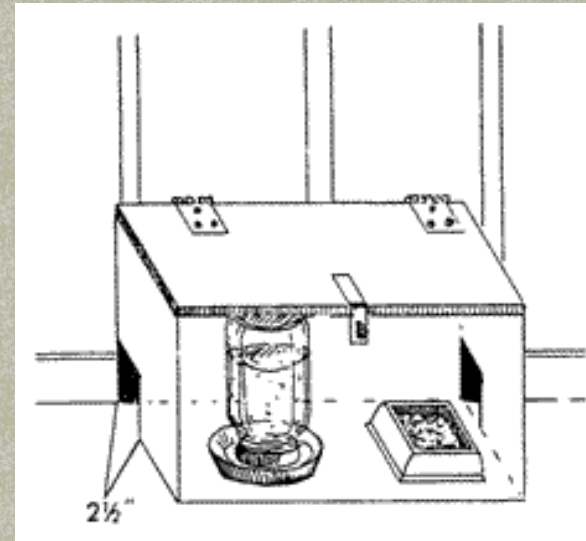


Fumigants





Bait Stations





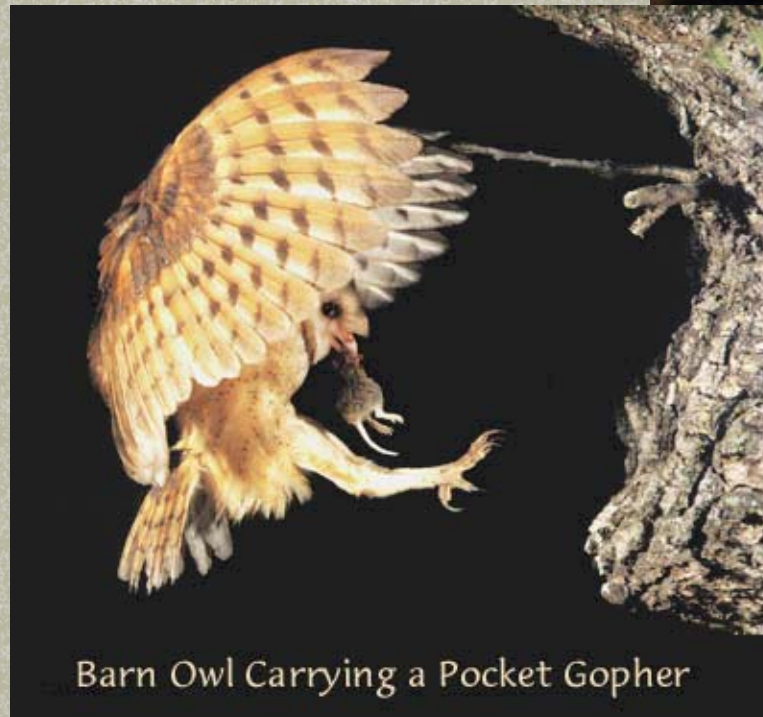
Shooting





Biological Control

- Predators
- Diseases
- Birth Control



Barn Owl Carrying a Pocket Gopher





Health/Safety Concerns

■ Zoonotic Diseases

- Rabies
- Hantavirus
- Plague

■ Handling/Disposal

- Gloves
- Wash Hands





Pocket Gopher

- Trapping
- Exclusion (hardware cloth wrapped around root ball or garden perimeter)
- Fumigants
- Poison Baits
- Repellents
- Resistant plants





Rock Squirrel

- Fumigants
- Trapping
- Toxicants
- Eliminate brush and rock piles, other habitat features
- Flood irrigation





Woodrat (Packrat)

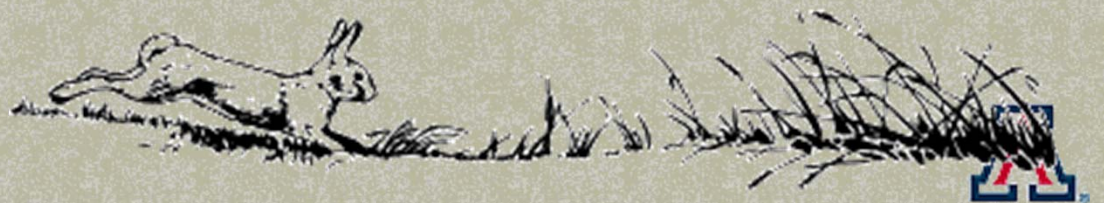
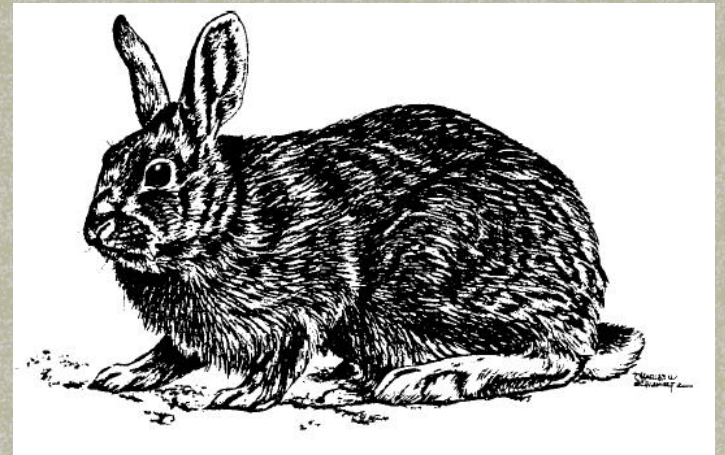
- Exclusion (buildings)
- Trapping
- Anticoagulants
- Destruction of dens





Cottontail Rabbit

- Exclusion (1" chicken wire, 2 ft above and 1 ft below)
- Plant resistant plants
- Habitat modification
- Repellents
- Trapping
- Biocontrol





Beaver

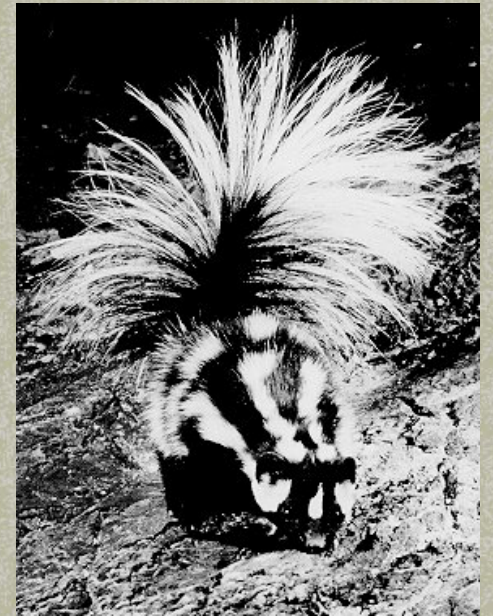
- Exclusion (low fence, wire or electric)
- Hardware cloth barriers around trees
- Live trapping





Skunk

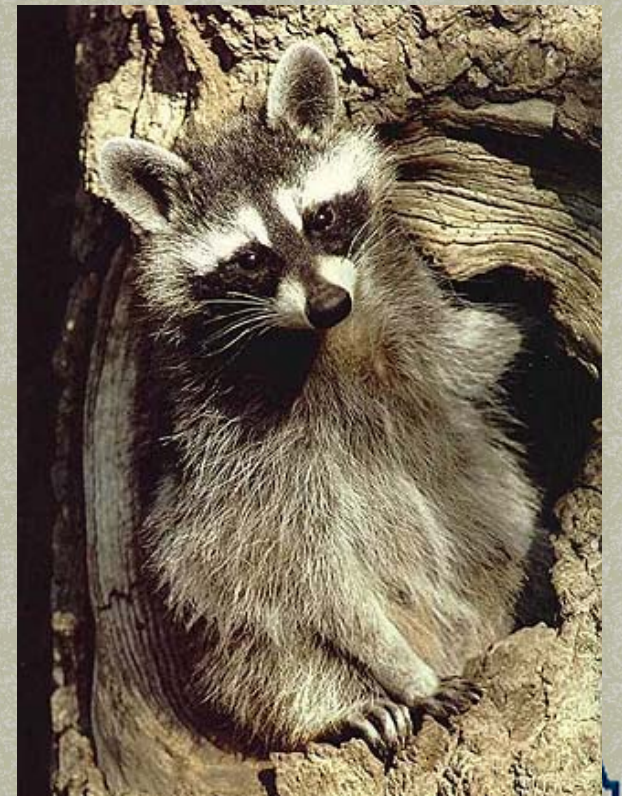
- Exclusion
- Remove attractant
- Live traps
- Ammonia/moth balls?
- Skunk Deodorizer Recipe
 - 1 qt 3% Hydrogen Peroxide
 - ¼ cup baking soda
 - 1 tsp dish detergent





Raccoon

- Exclusion (best solution)
- Remove attractant
- Live traps
- Professional assistance





Javelina

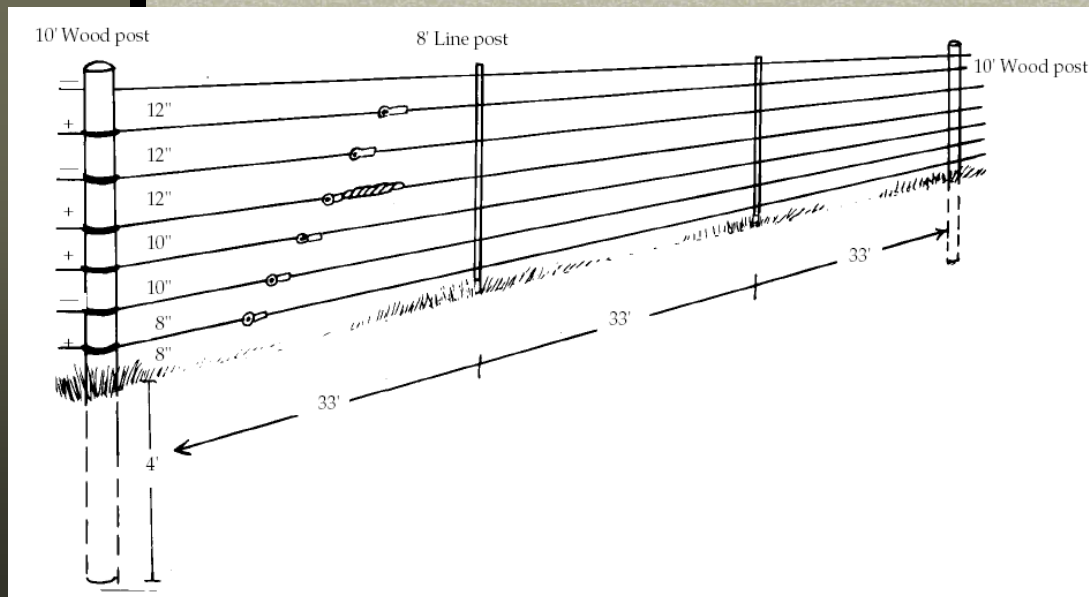
- Sturdy fencing (2½ - 3ft)
- Electric Fence
- Remove attractant

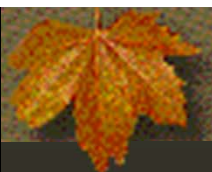




Deer/Elk

- Fencing (8-10 ft)
- Repellents
- Frightening
- Harvest crop asap





Wildlife Damage Control Professionals (NWCOS)

- Licensed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Look in the Yellow Pages under “Pest Control”
- Or, call your local Arizona Game and Fish Office





On-line Resources

Yavapai County Cooperative Extension

extension.arizona.edu/yavapai/

UNL Wildlife Damage Management

wildlifedamage.unl.edu

The Mammals of Texas

www.nsrl.ttu.edu/tmot1/

