

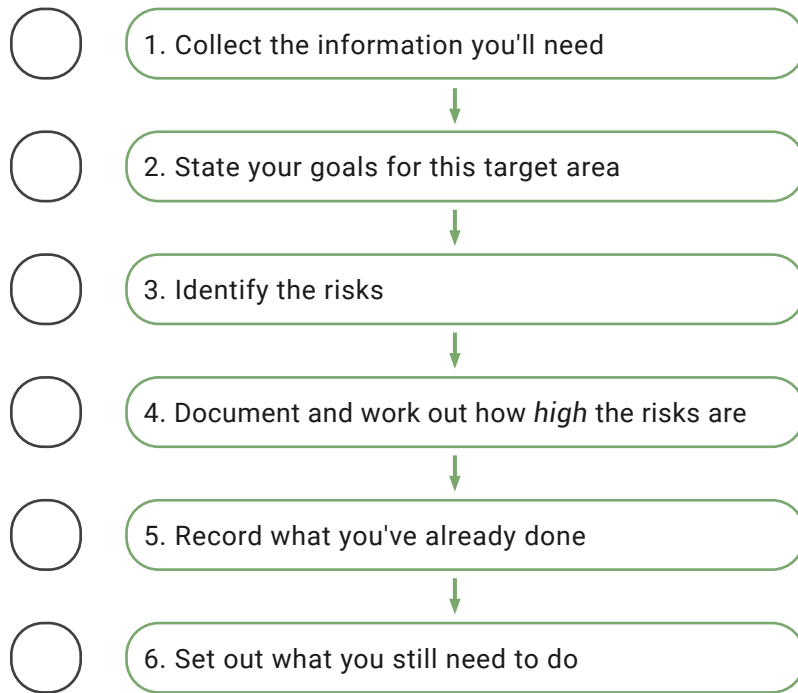
ACTION PLAN: PREVENTING SOIL LOSS CAUSED BY FENCE PACING



01 What information will I need?

- Farm map and risk assessment
- Farm soil map to identify vulnerable soil types
- Deer Industry Environmental Management Code of Practice: For good management practices and mitigation options p29; For managing behaviour that can cause fence pacing p35

Tick these off as you go



There's a place to fill these in at the end of the document

Then monitor progress, e.g., damage along fencelines



02 Goals

Start by setting simple overall goals on fence pacing damage. **Here are some examples:**

My goals for managing fence pacing damage are:

1. I want to manage my deer so they do less fence pacing

2. I want to repair the damage to paddocks from fence pacing



Go to the template at the end of this document to fill in your goals and the other parts of your Action Plan.



03 What are the risks from fence pacing?



DID YOU KNOW...

Causes of fence pacing

Fence pacing happens when animals are stressed, e.g. through overcrowding, nutrition stress, bad weather or normal behaviour around breeding and fawning. If there is a problem with fence pacing it can indicate there are other things going wrong on the property.



Bad trenching in vulnerable soils caused by fence pacing.

Damage from fence pacing

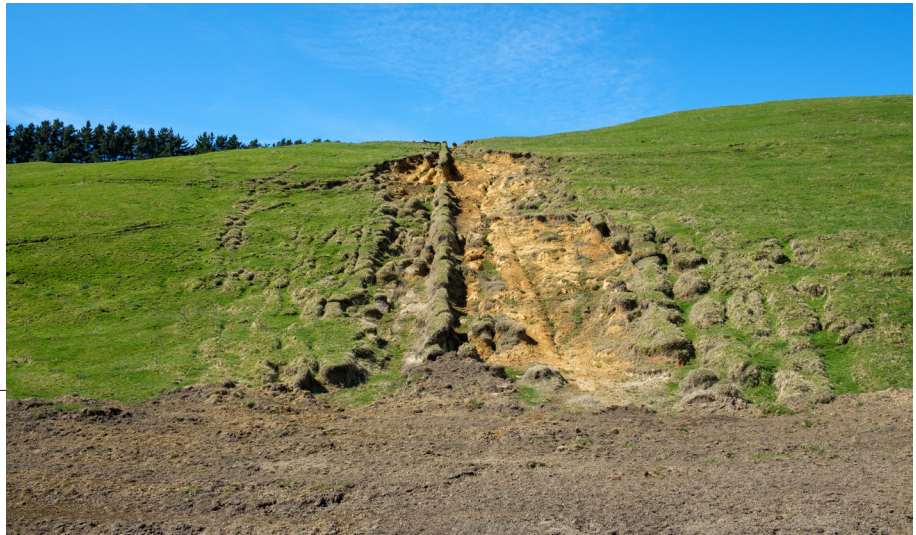
Fence pacing breaks up the pasture cover protecting soil and creates a source of sediment. This can escalate into significant erosion, especially on slopes. Light and ash-based soils are especially vulnerable. Damage from pacing can be expensive to repair and mitigate. It destroys pasture and reduces the amount of feed available to deer.



HANDY HINTS

Fencing layout
.....

- Avoid long, straight fence-lines
- Follow contours where possible rather than straight up/down a hill



Serious fence pacing damage on light volcanic soils where a fence ran straight uphill.



It has since been realigned in a zigzag pattern. The problem has resolved but damage is still visible.

- Paddock shape roughly square, not long and narrow
- Bigger paddocks are better than small paddocks
- Plant shelter belts next to fences or clumps of trees in paddocks or triangle plantings of trees at intervals along fenceline. Big rocks or logs placed along fencelines can also help prevent pacing.
- An outrigger hotwire can help prevent pacing, but they can just push deer further back and pacing continues. There's also a risk of stags getting antlers caught up or weaners getting tangled.
- Electric wands are more effective and safer than a hotwire. They train deer to keep away from fence posts and reduce pacing.

Fencing layout cont.



The electric wands on this fence keep animals back and reduce pacing.



04 How high are the risks from fence pacing?

Record the risks from fence pacing. **We've started with some examples below.** Tailor this to your situation using the template at the end. See the "Risk Assessment" module for how to assess level of risk:

Activity/location examples	Risk assessment	Comment (make a note of anything specific to your place)
Soil damage from fence pacing in smaller paddocks near road	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Worse in smaller paddocks with no shelter
Existing damage in the Big Ridge and Gully paddocks	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Bad where fenceline runs straight downhill and sediment could run into the creek
Lack of shelterbelts in the bottom flats could be an issue for fence pacing in future	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Managing stock classes and mobs between paddocks where they can see each other
Soil type on the hills on the back half of the farm is more prone to erosion if fence pacing occurs	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	I manage my deer more carefully to ensure erosion doesn't occur, but if fence pacing does occur, erosion could be significant



05 Actions to reduce fence pacing damage

Write down (a) what you've already done to prevent fence pacing and fix any damage it's caused and then (b) what you have got planned. Link it back to your goals and risk assessment (above). Include timing and who's responsible. **We've started with some examples below.** Record your own completed actions and planned actions in the template at the end.

Goal	Risk identified	Risk level	Action	Measure and monitor	Date initiated	Who
Less fence pacing	Soil damage from fence pacing in the Big Ridge and Gully paddocks near road	○ ○ ●	Maintain appropriate pasture cover and select best stock class in neighbouring paddocks to prevent sediment loss and damage from fence pacing	Visual inspection – limited fence pacing damage visible	Underway, ongoing	Me, farm staff
Repair soil damage	Previous damage in two important deer paddocks	○ ○ ●	Repair fence pacing in Gully and Ridge paddocks. Use rocks that deer don't like walking on	Visual inspection – limited new fence pacing damage visible	31 May 2022	Me, earthmoving contractor
Minimise risk of fence pacing starting	Lack of shelterbelts in the bottom flats could be an issue for fence pacing in future	● ○ ○	Managing mobs in these paddocks to limit stress and fence pacing Longer term plan to develop a shelterbelt plan for these paddocks	Visual Inspection when driving through the paddocks	Ongoing 2023 – develop a 5-year plan for putting in two shelterbelts.	Me, staff
Minimise soil erosion risk that could occur	Soil type on the hills on the back half of the farm is more prone to erosion if fence pacing occurs	○ ● ○	Careful stock management to avoid fence pacing starting in these paddocks. If it does start, remove the deer. Training of staff so they know the importance of managing the stock well in those paddocks.	Visual Inspection	Ongoing Staff training at next month's staff meeting	Me, staff



HANDY HINTS

Stock management

- Avoid running mobs in adjacent paddocks, especially during the rut or fawning
- Keep non-breeding stags well away from mating mobs
- Provide distractions like earth piles, tree stumps or used drench containers
- Ensure stock have adequate feed and access to water
- Provide hinds with suitable fawning environments: lower stocking rate, elevation, cover
- Avoid mixing older and younger hinds
- Wean into a paddock fawns are familiar with, well clear of disturbances and in good weather

Repairing damage

- Before you start, check any council rules that might affect remedial work
- Remove deer from the paddock
- Divert rainwater from any trenches created by pacing
- Fill trench with gravel, boulders or clay and finish with topsoil
- Cultivate if possible; sow with grass seed or cover with seedy meadow hay



Rock buffer in trench along fenceline.

Repairing damage cont.



Tyres placed in soil along fence as part of repairs help reduce further pacing.



Improving outriggers

Southland deer farmer John Somerville came up with this inexpensive and simple solution to outrigger installation on deer fencing. He uses a short length of alkathene bent and nailed at each end to the post to hold the wire in place. The wire is secured inside the bend with a 3" nail driven in behind it. Power is turned off as a precaution when velvet is growing. If an animal pushes against the outrigger it bends and then flexes back into position, with no damage.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Deer Fact: [Fence pacing - Costs and solutions](#)

TEMPLATE: FENCE PACING

Fill out your Action Plan for fence pacing here.



02 Goals

My goals for managing fence pacing damage are:



03 How high are the risks from fence pacing?

See the "Risk Assessment" module for how to assess level of risk:

Activity/location	Risk assessment (low/medium/high)	Comment (make a note of anything specific to your place)
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	
	○ ○ ○	



Actions: What I've already done to protect against fence pacing damage

Write down what you've already done to repair and protect against fence pacing damage. Link it back to your goals and risk assessment (above). Include timing and who's responsible.

Goal	Risk identified	Risk level	Action	Measure and monitor	Date initiated	Who
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				



Actions: How I will protect against fence pacing damage

Write down what you've still got planned to repair and protect against fence pacing damage. Link it back to your goals and risk assessment (above). Include timing and who's responsible.

Goal	Risk identified	Risk level	Action	Measure and monitor	Date initiated	Who
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				
		○ ○ ○				

When you've completed this template, save this document onto your computer. You can amend it later if you need to.

● Low

● Medium

● High