

Genuine **BRYCE SUMA**

POST DRIVERS

Morebattle to Montana

Keeping coyotes, wolves and grizzly bears under control and the worst drought in 100 years on top of a 12" annual rainfall doesn't make fencing easy in Montana. Nor is it easy for farming!

Lance Stokes works out of Conrad in Montana as a fencing contractor. Despite stocking densities being very low (25 cows to 600 acres), secure fences are a first priority in the control of predators - ewes, lambs and calves being their favourite quarry. Coyotes and wolves come down from the Canadian border and grizzlies make their presence felt by coming down from the Rockies. Coyotes are also tending to move westwards from North Dakota. Stockmen on horseback and good fencing, provide a measure of acceptable control and in extreme cases these predators are shot by federal officials. Lance was saying a friend had recently lost 10 calves to wolves.



The height of a Montana summer. Every post is rockspiked.



From hard and dry to bog.



Fencing late October at -7° Snow cover has kept the frost out of the ground.

Despite the dry climate there is some swampy ground and Lance went into this bog to drive posts. On the BRYCE 180 PRO Lance says "it's plumb good, this sucker could not believe what he was seeing. By slewing the hammer any way - left, right or forward, I got the weight transfer to give the traction required and without that feature I would have sure bogged down."

BRYCE 180 PRO. Lance says "it was a big decision to go for this top of the range gear. It was not cheap to buy but it's a darned good machine and darned sure it works good. The rockspike has saved my butt. I sure have no regrets."

FENCING. Fencing is generally a standard stock net with 2 barbs on top or, for cattle where predator risk is lower, then 4 barbs is the norm. "Electric fencing can be high maintenance in these big and remote ranches. If you get deer or elk flying through them it can take a lot of time to find the fault and we can't afford the time."

CLIMATE. With an annual rainfall of only 12 inches and the worst drought for a century with temperatures in the 90s, from June to late September the ground is rock hard. "For the ground I work on I need the best kit available. The Bryce has the build quality and power, is just so darned good and quick. It's crazy - no one has ever seen any machine like it. You can't fault the 180."

GROUND CONDITIONS. The ground is desperately hard and dry all the time but



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