

# Wyoming State Action Plan 2025



**Implementation of Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3362:  
“Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range  
and Migration Corridors”**

Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
November 2025

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# INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Wyoming State Action Plan will provide an update and further guide implementation of the Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3362 (SO 3362) in Wyoming. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) has identified five mule deer herds to focus management actions on in the coming years in migratory and winter range habitats. The rationale for prioritization and identification of threats to the priority herds are briefly described and evaluated throughout the Plan. Each priority area has a degree of mule deer movement data from Global Positioning System (GPS) collar studies and conservation practices with partners are ongoing in each herd. The priority mule deer herds for 2025 are Baggs, Bates Hole, Dubois, Sublette and Wyoming Range. WGFD and partners will continue ongoing conservation efforts across the State, including in many areas outside of the 2025 prioritized mule deer herds. WGFD acknowledges that periodically evaluating mule deer herd prioritization within the State Action Plan allows for a wider variety of engaged partners and a better opportunity to leverage private and state funding.

Wyoming has a considerable amount of information on habitat use and seasonal distribution, including migration corridors, due to extensive GPS collar data. The University of Wyoming Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and numerous partners created the

Wyoming Migration Initiative (WMI), with whom WGFD has partnered on many studies. The priority research herds for 2018 and 2019 Department of Interior (DOI) research funding included Sublette, Medicine Bow-Shirley Basin, and Carter Mountain Pronghorn and North Bighorn, Platte Valley, and Powder River and Pumpkin Buttes Mule Deer. The Dubois Mule Deer Herd underwent a public process to identify the area as a migration corridor in 2024.

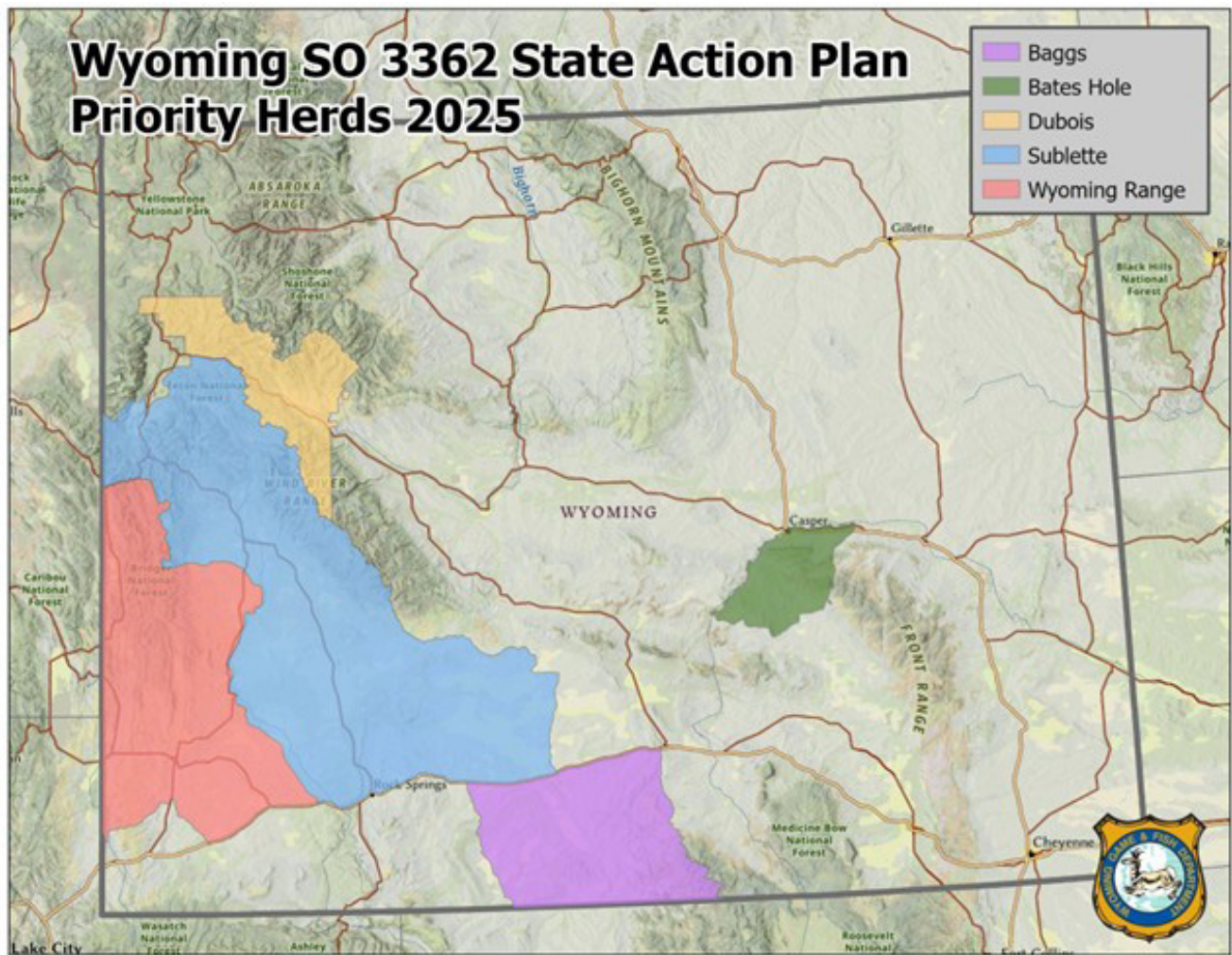
Wyoming contains approximately 62,147,200 total acres, 48% of which is under the management authority of the federal government. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 18,357,570 acres, the United States Forest Service (USFS) manages 9,237,620 acres, and the National Park Service (NPS) manages 2,393,200 acres. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages 93,040 acres, including 24,000 acres at the National Elk Refuge. Other agencies manage the remaining acres, including the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC), which manages approximately 450,000 acres, and the State of Wyoming owns 3,696,800 acres through the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI). Important wildlife habitat is provided by private landowners throughout the state. This ownership structure requires cooperative partnerships to work across all ownerships for big game species.



# PRIORITY CORRIDORS AND WINTER RANGES

WGFD identified five priority herds with migratory mule deer in Wyoming. These include Baggs, Bates Hole, Dubois, Sublette and Wyoming Range Mule Deer Herds. Managers have collected mule deer movement data in each of these areas and are cur-

rently working with stakeholders and agency personnel to develop proactive conservation actions geared toward managing vital habitats in each of these herd units.

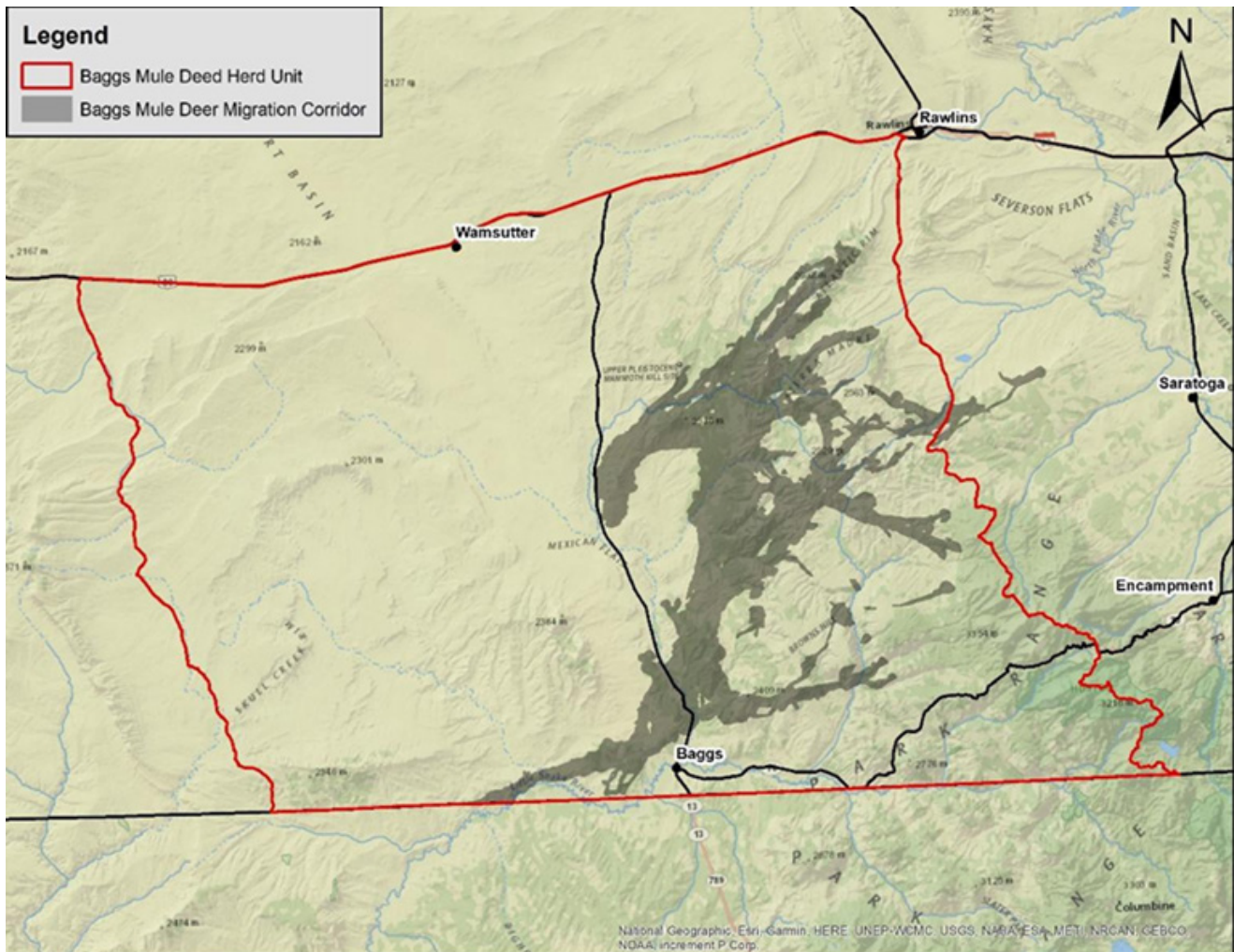


# WYOMING MIGRATION CORRIDOR PRIORITY: BAGGS MULE DEER

## Priority Selection

The Baggs Mule Deer Herd Unit contains one of three designated migration corridors in Wyoming and is known for its complex and diverse movements between low elevation winter ranges and high elevation summer ranges. Deep snow at higher elevations requires mule deer to migrate to lower elevations in the southern and western portions of the herd unit. Record-setting snowpack during the winter of 2022-2023 resulted in an estimated 37%

decline in the population. Managers trying to recover this population are focusing efforts on improving habitat throughout the corridor and on winter and transitional ranges using the Baggs Mule Deer Habitat Management Plan as a guiding document. The Plan identifies juniper encroachment, shrub decadence, and cheatgrass invasions as leading causes of habitat degradation on winter and transition ranges as well as throughout migration corridors.



*Baggs mule deer designated migration corridor.*



## Spatial Location

The Baggs mule deer migration corridor encompasses the western slope of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range through the Atlantic Rim to the north and moves southwesterly to the extreme southeast corner of Sweetwater County and south into Moffat County, Colorado. The migration corridor for this herd is approximately 50 miles long in Wyoming while an additional 30 miles of this

corridor occurs in Moffat County, Colorado, and is used during severe winters. The corridor is narrow and confined to transitional and winter ranges, becoming more complex and braided in higher elevation habitat near summer range. Winter severity influences migration length, with some deer moving only 30-40 miles during mild years.

## Habitat Types

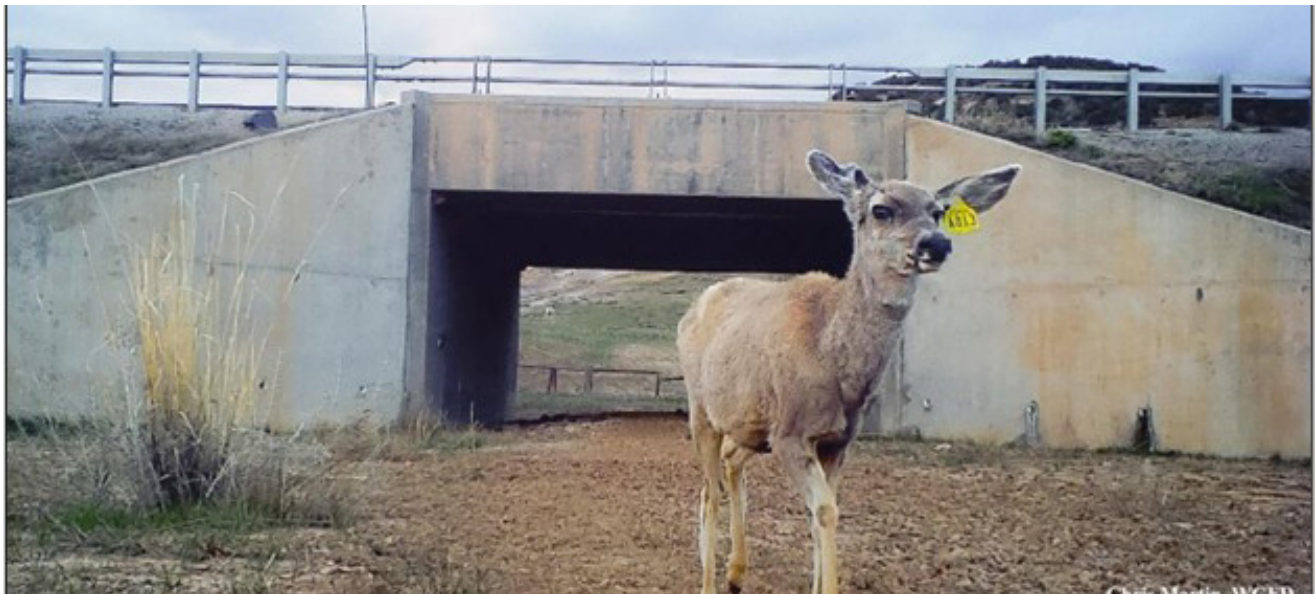
The Baggs Mule Deer Herd Unit contains a diversity of habitats ranging from lower elevation desert shrub communities to high elevation deciduous and conifer forests. Winter ranges are dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush and/or juniper woodlands. Mid-elevation transitional ranges are com-

prised of mountain big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, true mountain mahogany, serviceberry, Gambel oak, and aspen. At high elevation summer ranges, mule deer take advantage of highly productive herbaceous understories in dense aspen communities.

## Important Stopover Areas Within the Corridor

Similar to other migratory herds in Wyoming, mule deer within the Baggs herd use stopover areas to feed on nutritious vegetation and replenish energy reserves during migration. Approximately 27% of the Baggs corridor was identified as a stopover area via a Brownian Bridge Movement Model (BBMM). Many of these stopover areas overlap with crucial

winter range habitat and high use areas within the corridor. Important stopover areas in the Baggs herd unit include Doty Mountain, Wild Horse Butte southwest across US Highway 789 towards Cottonwood Creek and Poison Basin, the Sand Hills south to Deep Gulch, Muddy Mountain, and Loco Creek east towards the USFS boundary.



*A mule deer doe successfully uses an underpass to navigate under Wyoming Highway 789.*

## Land Ownership

Landownership patterns vary from large blocks of public lands, to checkerboard (federal/private land) ownership, to various mixtures of public and non-public lands. While the entire Baggs Mule Deer Herd Unit is over 3 million acres, the majority

of deer use occurs within a smaller area. The Majority of Use Area within the herd unit, as defined in the Baggs Mule Deer Initiative Planning Document, consists of BLM (67%), USFS (14%), State of Wyoming (4%), and private land (15%).

## Land Uses

Energy development, both traditional oil and gas and newer sources such as wind and solar, are the

main industrial land use, along with traditional ranching.

## Risks and Threats

The Baggs Mule Deer Initiative Planning Document identifies juniper encroachment, shrub decadence, and cheatgrass invasion as leading causes of habitat degradation. Decreased forage conditions, combined with physical barriers (i.e., fences and roads) that impede movement to important seasonal habitats impact the overall performance of the Baggs mule deer herd. Energy development,

specifically oil, natural gas, and wind energy are ongoing uses in this herd. As wind and solar energy developments, along with the large transmission lines associated with them, become more prominent in south-central Wyoming, mule deer habitat will become more fragmented, animals will be displaced from important seasonal ranges, and large quantities of habitat may be completely lost.

## Are the Risks and Threats Immediate or Long-Term

Juniper encroachment, shrub decadence, and invasive annual grasses are immediate and long-term threats to mule deer within the Baggs herd unit. Barriers to wildlife movement such as livestock

fences and roads are an immediate threat. The potential for increased levels of renewable and non-renewable energy remains a long-term risk in this herd.

## Actions Necessary to Reduce or Eliminate Risks and Threats

Collaborating with county governments, federal land managers, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners is essential to reducing or eliminating risks/threats to the Baggs mule deer herd. Large-scale habitat treatments coordinated by private landowners, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), BLM, Little Snake River Conservation District (LSRCD), USFS, and WGFD aim to reduce conifer encroachment in important mule deer habitats throughout the

migration corridor, and throughout the herd unit. Efforts to increase age class diversity, improve nutritional quality, and reduce competition for nutrients and water will improve overall habitat conditions. Continued coordination and execution of the Wyoming Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection Executive Order (MCEO) with the BLM, OSLI, and energy developers will remain a priority to minimize disturbance in the migration corridor and other important habitats.



*Juniper mastication on mule deer crucial range near Savery, Wyoming.*

## Current Efforts

The WGFD works alongside the LSRCD, BLM, Carbon County Weed and Pest (CCWP), NRCS, and USFS to implement vegetation management treatments across the herd unit. LSRCD has led much of the habitat work completed across all jurisdictions, and in particular private land. They most recently played a significant role along with NRCS and USFS in leading a large landscape project called Valleys and Headwaters Restoration, with funding headlined by a multi-million dollar United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Joint Chiefs' grant. This was leveraged with many other funding sources to accomplish shrub, aspen and cheatgrass treatments, and wildlife-friendly fence conversions across priority habitats in the herd unit. The Rawlins BLM Field Office plays an active role in vegetation management in the herd unit, most recently with a major effort to treat mixed-mountain shrub habitats as part of the BLM's Muddy Creek Watershed Restoration Landscape. Carbon County Weed and Pest, the BLM, and the WGFD have worked together to prioritize and treat over 70,000 acres of cheatgrass in the last

two years. Additionally, the Medicine Bow National Forest (MBNF) signed a conditional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision called the Landscape Vegetation Analysis project, which allows for new, cross-boundary habitat treatment opportunities with the USFS.

The Wyoming-USDA Big Game Partnership was initiated in 2023 to emphasize wildlife conservation practices on private land. USDA is supporting this partnership with a focused application of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Through this partnership, USDA programs work in a complementary way to support big game conservation. The implementation of these programs is prioritized based on areas identified by WGFD and Tribal leaders on the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR) to be of particular benefit to big game throughout the state and the Baggs mule deer migration corridor is one of those priority areas.



## Cost of Current or Needed Habitat Treatments, Road Crossings, Etc.

Shrub mastication varies depending on steepness of terrain, shrub density, and difficulty of access. Based on similar work completed in 2023 and 2024, average cost per acre for stage I and stage II juniper encroachment and mixed mountain shrub

treatments was \$351/acre however costs could substantially increase depending on site conditions and treatment prescriptions. Invasive annual grass treatments currently cost approximately \$70/acre.

## Other Species Impacted

Other species that will benefit from these treatments include sage grouse and pronghorn. Several of the treatment polygons fall within the South Rawlins sage grouse core area. Treatments in these areas will improve sage grouse habitat by removing perching trees for raptors, reducing sagebrush canopy cover, and increasing nutrients and water available on the landscape which will improve quality and quantity of the herbaceous understory. Many of the proposed treatment areas fall within crucial

winter range, winter year long, or spring/summer/fall range for pronghorn who will also benefit from increased nutritional quality of shrub species and increased shrub and herbaceous productivity. Land use planning including travel management, energy development and county planning and zoning decisions have wide-sweeping impacts by the potential to maintain open space and connected landscapes for many species.



# WYOMING MIGRATION CORRIDOR PRIORITY: BATES HOLE MULE DEER

## Priority Selection

The Bates Hole-Hat Six herd has declined since the early 1990s. Despite conservative management and minimal harvest of females since 2008, the lack of sustained growth suggests that other limiting factors, such as habitat quality declines and disease, are significantly impacting the dynamics of this herd. Seasonal habitat use has been determined from two studies designed to evaluate CWD dynamics, cause-specific mortality, and general herd demography and movements. These data are

being used to help prioritize habitat treatments for this mule deer herd. This area has a long history of habitat project implementation, willing landowners, engaged partners, and cooperative federal land management entities. Current project momentum and funding are in place to leverage additional opportunities to implement a suite of beneficial mule deer projects within crucial winter habitats over the next several years.



*Bates Hole mule deer herd unit and GPS collar data.*



## Spatial Location

The Bates Hole - Hat Six Mule Deer Herd Unit contains Hunt Areas 66 and 67 and is located in central Wyoming. The herd unit encompasses approximately 1,396 square miles from the City of

Casper, east to Deer Creek, south to the Shirley Rim, west to Pathfinder Reservoir, and northeast along the North Platte River back to the City of Casper.

## Habitat Types

The majority of this herd unit comprises winter-yearlong or crucial winter yearlong ranges. Sagebrush/grasslands are the dominant community in the herd unit, with true mountain mahogany being the dominant community on winter ranges. Riparian areas, and other important mountain shrub communities are also available and used by mule deer. Juniper woodlands are also prevalent in the central portion of the herd unit. Mid-elevation spring, summer, fall ranges are a mix of conifer

woodlands, aspen stands, and meadows with a mixture of shrubs, forbs, and cool season grasses. Much of the herd unit is topographically diverse, with mule deer often keying in on the vegetative diversity offered by snow accumulation areas. Relative densities of mule deer vary significantly within the herd unit, with most deer found within the mountain shrub foothills, along drainages within sagebrush habitats, and along riparian corridors.

## Important Stopover Areas Within the Corridor

Most mule deer do not migrate long distances in this herd, although some individual migrations have been documented from Bates Hole to the eastern Laramie Range and Shirley Mountains. Therefore, there are no designated stopover areas.

However, habitat treatments have been targeted in snow accumulation areas to enhance forage quality and quantity in areas where mule deer are often present in spring and fall.

## Land Ownership

Land status within the herd is a mosaic of public (BLM, USFS, and OSLI) and private lands, with

about 44% public lands accessible to the hunting public.

## Land Uses

The main land use is traditional ranching and grazing of livestock and motorized and non-motorized recreation. The Gateway West Transmission Line has recently been completed on the southeastern portion of the herd unit. There is also the potential for large-scale industrial wind development on the

eastern boundary and along the periphery of this herd unit. Area 67 consists of the City of Casper, adjoining suburban communities, and cabin sites on Casper Mountain. Given the human presence within Area 67, habitat treatments are focused on Area 66 in this herd unit.

## Risks and Threats

Declining upland shrub, riparian, and mesic area conditions, conifer encroachment, invasive annual grasses, sub-optimal landscape permeability due

to non-wildlife friendly fences, highway collisions, and chronic wasting disease are the primary threats to this herd.



## Are the Risks and Threats Immediate or Long-Term

Vehicle collisions are an immediate threat to this herd. Habitat quality declines are a long-term threat. Chronic mule deer losses to vehicle collisions occur along Wyoming Highway 487 each year. Shrub

stand treatments within the right-of-way have occurred to reduce mule deer vehicular strikes and fence conversion from woven wire to 4-strand wildlife-friendly will be completed in 2025.

## Actions Necessary to Reduce or Eliminate Risks and Threats

Habitat treatments, wildlife-friendly fence conversions, Highway right-of way (ROW) shrub treatments (to increase deer visibility to motorists), and research have been conducted to mitigate threats to mule deer. Additional work is warranted to continue to address limiting factors to this herd. Habitat treatments that can address issues within this herd

include mechanical shrub rejuvenation, prescribed fire, beaver dam analogues, Zeedyk structures, riparian planting, mechanical conifer removal, and cheatgrass treatments. Targeted fence modification is also beneficial for increasing landscape permeability.



*Juniper cut and pile work has been completed in this herd unit, among many other treatment types.*

## Current Efforts

WGFD has a long history of conducting habitat treatments in this area since the late 1990's. The Department has extensively partnered with private landowners, BLM, NRCS, the Natrona County Conservation District, Natrona County Weed and Pest, and the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) to implement beneficial mule deer projects. The WGFD conducted the work in the majority of these projects, however, BLM is

also implementing habitat treatments as well. Completed and planned projects within this herd unit include mechanical shrub rejuvenation, prescribed fire, beaver dam analogues, Zeedyk structures, riparian planting, mechanical conifer removal, and cheatgrass treatments, Highway ROW shrub treatments and targeted fence modification. Additional funding will allow for these efforts to be scaled up.

## Cost of Current or Needed Habitat Treatments, Road Crossings, Etc.

Approximately \$2 million in projects have been identified and planned for implementation in the

next 3 years within or adjacent to this herd unit.

## Other Species Impacted

Many of the treatments that will be implemented for mule deer are also beneficial to pronghorn and sage-grouse. This herd has substantial overlap with the Natrona Sage-Grouse Core Area, and provides some of the best sage-grouse habitat in North America. It boasts one of the highest densities of breeding sage-grouse in all of Wyoming. In addition, this area provides important habitat for a substantial portion of the Medicine Bow Pronghorn Herd Unit, which encompasses Shirley Basin and Bates Hole as well portions of the northern Lara-

mie Range. This pronghorn herd is highly migratory and is one of the largest pronghorn herds in Wyoming. Every year several thousand pronghorn migrate from summer range in Shirley Basin and upper Bates Hole into lower Bates Hole to winter (in addition to migrations that occur within the southwest part of the herd unit). Any work to rejuvenate sagebrush stands, address conifer encroachment, reduce cheatgrass expansion, or improve landscape permeability will undoubtedly benefit this important pronghorn herd.



# WYOMING MIGRATION CORRIDOR PRIORITY: DUBOIS MULE DEER

## Priority Selection

The Dubois Mule Deer Herd Unit was part of the Eastern Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Mule Deer Monitoring Project to catalog big game seasonal use patterns in northwestern Wyoming. While the Dubois Herd is identified as a priority herd, mule deer from the WRIR and the Owl Creek-Meeteetse Herds also have seasonal movements through the Dubois Mule Deer Herd. This data, in concert with an analysis of WYDOT crash and wildlife/vehicle collision data from 2010-2018, shows that U.S. Highway 26/287 (milepost 45 to milepost 75) has a high frequency of collisions every year. This stretch of highway was ranked as the highest priority within WYDOT's District 5 at the 2017 Wyoming's Wildlife and Roadways Sum-

mit (Lutz et al. 2017). According to WYDOT data, wildlife/vehicle collision rates are highest in the fall coinciding with mule deer migration through the area, somewhat lower through the winter and early spring, and low in the summer and early fall. The high number of collisions relative to traffic makes this one of the worst areas in the state in terms of risk to drivers.

Significant efforts are underway to improve forage conditions throughout the herd through implementing invasive annual grass (IAG) treatments and improvements to aspen and shrub communities. Fence modification projects have also gained momentum and are underway with partners throughout the Herd.



*Dubois Mule Deer Herd Unit*



The Upper Wind River Mule Deer Migration Corridor was identified by the WGFC in 2024 per the public process outlined in the MCEO. This included GPS collar data analysis and the development of a Threat Evaluation and a public process with stakeholders. The corridor was delineated using a sample of 494 sequences from 147 individuals,

which was collected from GPS collar studies conducted from 2014 to 2023. A total of 312,863 acres were delineated into low, medium and high use corridor polygons with a 300-meter line buffer analysis. This elevated awareness of the conservation needs in this Corridor and has generated momentum towards project implementation.

## Spatial Location

The Herd Unit area is located in northwestern Wyoming, starting in Fremont County near Crowheart and westward to the higher elevations of Togwo-

tee Pass in the Teton Wilderness and Mount Leidy Highlands in Teton County.

## Habitat Types

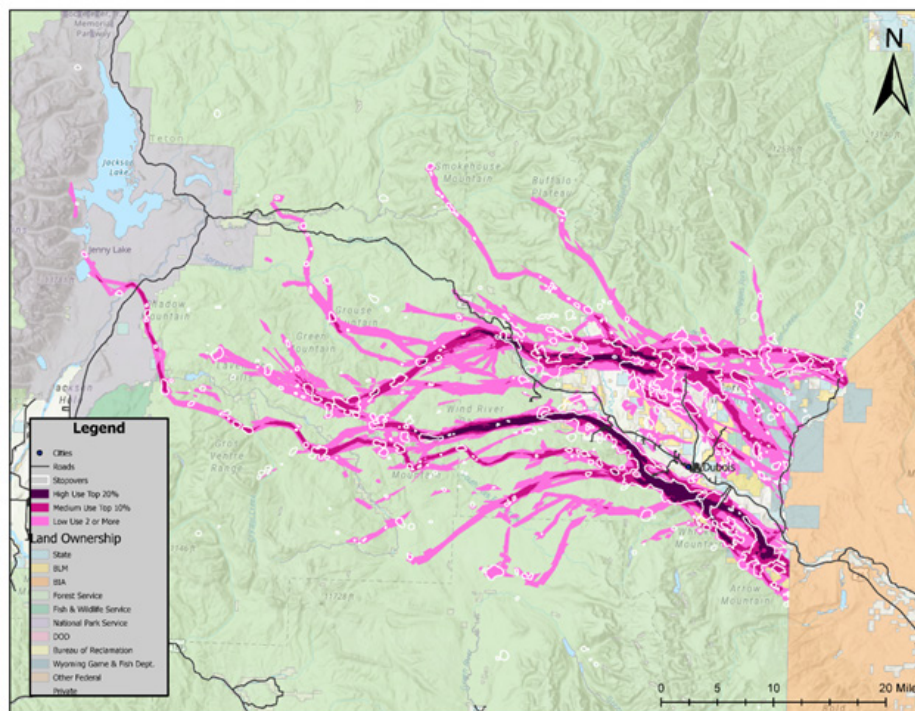
Mule deer move during the fall from the mountains into foothills and riparian habitats within the upper Wind River Basin. This is an area of diverse habitats, including mountain big sagebrush, mixed

conifers, aspen, juniper, and riparian communities associated with the Wind River and its tributaries. Agriculture fields consist primarily of alfalfa and native grass hay production.

## Important Stopover Areas Within the Corridor

Similar to other migratory herds in Wyoming, mule deer within the Dubois herd use stopover areas to feed on nutritious vegetation and replenish energy reserves during migration. Over 81,000 acres of stopover habitat were delineated with a BBMM

analysis associated with the identified corridor process. These stopover areas overlap the corridor as well as crucial winter range habitat in some of the lower elevation areas.



*The Dubois, WRIR and Owl Creek Mule Deer Herds migration are incorporated into the identified Upper Wind River Mule Deer Migration Corridor.*

## Land Ownership

Migration occurs primarily on USFS land (70%) with private (12%), BLM, WGFC Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMAs), NPS and OSLI

lands making up the remainder. Winter ranges are primarily on WRIR, BLM, WHMAs and private lands.

## Land Uses

USFS and BLM lands are primarily managed for wildlife habitat and have been removed from mineral and oil and gas leasing. Conservation easements are in place protecting habitats on some private lands. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) on BLM

lands provide management emphasis for wildlife habitats. WGFC lands on the Whiskey Mountain, East Fork, and Spence/Moriarity WHMAs protect wildlife habitats. Small acreage ranchettes and small hay meadows are prevalent in this area.

## Risks and Threats

Increased traffic on this stretch of highway has resulted in an increased wildlife mortality (primarily mule deer, but also includes bighorn sheep, moose, elk, pronghorn and white-tailed deer). Continued private land subdivision and development is a significant concern. IAG invasion, including

cheatgrass and other species, as well as generally late seral vegetation and conifer encroachment has decreased forage conditions throughout the Herd Unit. Fences include a variety of styles, many of which are old and not constructed to wildlife friendly specifications.



*Mule Deer using the Torrey Valley within the Whiskey Basin WHMA near Dubois, which is classified as crucial mule deer winter range. Habitat enhancement work is on-going within the WHMA to improve foraging conditions for wintering wildlife.*

## Are the Risks and Threats Immediate or Long-Term

Increasing traffic volume, wildlife/vehicle collisions, and fences are both short and long-term

threats, as are IAGs. Vegetation management is a long-term threat.

## Actions Necessary to Reduce or Eliminate Risks and Threats

Fence modifications, IAG control and vegetation management projects have been implemented and need to be expanded. WGFD and WYDOT are collaborating on solutions to the highway crossing challenges. A report outlining potential solutions

has been completed and discussed with stakeholders, US Highway 26 Wildlife Mitigation Strategy, and the next step of fundraising is underway for this project.

## Current Efforts

WGFD and WYDOT have purchased and deployed two sets of Variable Messaging Signs for use when wildlife are in the area to warn drivers during key periods of the year when wildlife and motorists are at most risk. The two agencies have also engaged with the Dubois community about the need to mitigate wildlife/vehicle collisions. WYDOT submitted a \$17.5 million funding request to the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, accompanied by \$2.7 million raised as private funds

for the project. This application included funds for one overpass, four underpasses and nine miles of game-proof fence. Collaborative efforts with USFS and Fremont County Weed and Pest have resulted in vegetation and IAG project plans, many of which are awaiting full funding to implement. Fence modification opportunities exist throughout the Herd Unit. While some fencing has been improved, there are still many miles of suitable fences for modification efforts.



*U.S. Highway 26/287 included in the wildlife crossing project (photo credit: Jon Altschuld, Chinook Landscape Architecture).*



## Cost of Current or Needed Habitat Treatments, Road Crossings, Etc.

The cost of completing the proposed wildlife crossing project is likely in excess of \$27.7 million. Fence modification projects are scalable and directly correlated to funding availability. Vegetation

management projects are ongoing and will require additional funding to expand their footprint and effectiveness.

## Other Issues for Awareness

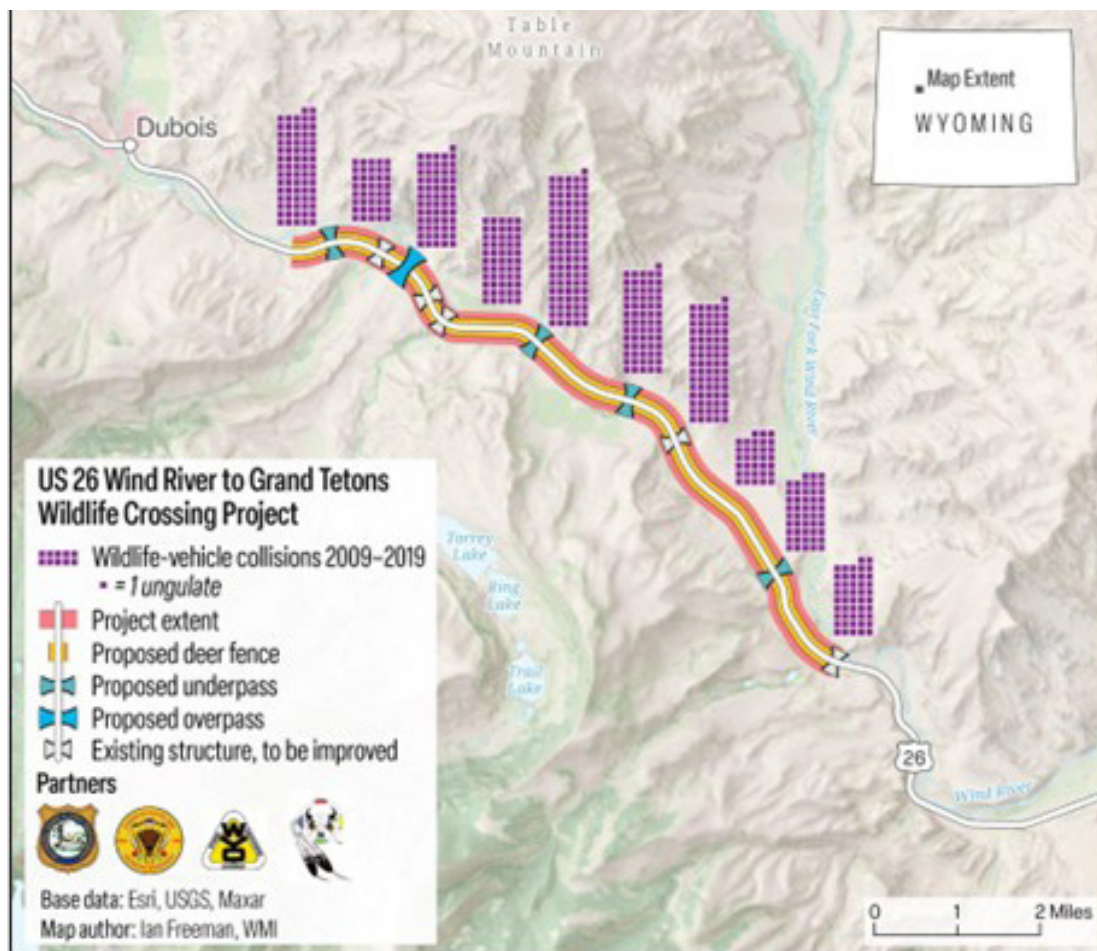
Ongoing GPS collar research is evaluating the effects of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) on the population both within the WRIR boundary as well as adjacent land. Preliminary information sug-

gests areas dominated by irrigated agriculture are supporting higher rates of CWD in deer relative to those areas with native habitat.

## Other Species Impacted

Fence modification projects benefit a variety of big game species, including pronghorn, elk, moose and bighorn sheep as well as sage grouse in some places. Habitat treatments benefit a wide variety

of wildlife species both by a direct improvement of foraging habitat as well as reducing the risk of wildfire.



*US Highway 26/287 wildlife crossing project including wildlife/vehicle collisions and proposed mitigation solutions in the Dubois Mule Deer Herd (Credit: Wyoming Migration Initiative).*

# WYOMING MIGRATION CORRIDOR PRIORITY: SUBLETTE MULE DEER

## Priority Selection

Migration in this herd unit is complex and dynamic with some mule deer migrating extensive distances (150+ miles). Animals migrate between high elevation summer ranges to several distinct winter range complexes. GPS based telemetry studies have demonstrated that not only do individual mule deer have a strong fidelity to the same winter ranges ev-

ery year, they also use the same migration corridors and summer ranges. Proactive management is necessary to assure persistence of this migration corridor as mule deer cross a mix of land ownership and land-use patterns. During additional collaring efforts, mule deer movements have been documented into Idaho.



*Sublette mule deer designated migration corridor.*

## Spatial Location

The Sublette mule deer herd migration corridor is approximately 150 miles in length including lands in western Wyoming with one radio collared animal

traveling into southeast Idaho (a distance of over 240 miles).

## Habitat Types

The South Rock Springs Herd Unit is situated in a high desert ecosystem with elevations ranging from 6,040 feet at Flaming Gorge Reservoir to 9,000 feet at the summit of Little Mountain. Vegetative communities are diverse and transition quickly with ascending elevation over relatively short distances. Lower elevations consist of xeric Wyoming big sagebrush and salt desert shrubs in a 6-9 inch precipitation zone and transition to Utah juniper woodlands, mixed mountain shrub, mountain

big sagebrush-grasslands, aspen and subalpine fir stands at higher elevations (10-15 inch precipitation zone). Riparian areas are a mixture of both herbaceous dominated and willow dominated plant communities, with some higher elevation mesic stream segments exhibiting a diverse mix of riparian shrub species. The higher elevation areas are a few small mountain tops in this xeric landscape serving as oases of diverse habitats attracting numerous wildlife species during summer months.

## Land Ownership

The northern half of the herd unit consists of a 50/50 checkerboard land ownership pattern of primarily BLM and private lands. The southern

half of the herd unit is composed of BLM lands (80%), OSLI (12%), private lands (5%), and USFS (3%).

## Land Uses

BLM lands are managed for multiple uses including recreation, livestock grazing, oil and gas development, pipeline corridors, coal mining, communications infrastructure, and renewable energy. Most of the extractive resource uses occur on the eastern end of the herd unit. USFS lands are managed as part of the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area emphasizing fishing, boating, and camping

while allowing some other multiple uses. Private lands in the checkerboard area are used for livestock grazing and extractive energy sources. Private lands in the southern portion of the herd unit are mainly traditional ranching operations, and conservation easements have been established for private lands associated with the Red Creek and Currant Creek ranches.

## Risks and Threats

Portions of the Sublette corridor are intact and functioning. Numerous conservation projects have been completed to address barriers to movement, long-term functionality of bottlenecks, and habitat concerns. Continued private land subdivision and development is a concern. IAG invasion, primarily cheatgrass, as well as late seral vegetation including conifer encroachment has decreased forage quality throughout the Herd Unit on both winter range complexes and transitional/summer habitats. ROW and rangeland fences continue to pose a significant

risk, many of which are old and not constructed to wildlife-friendly specifications. Increasing traffic volumes on some highway segments and on popular secondary roads may result in these areas becoming a more significant barrier to mule deer movements in the future. Habitat features in the southern portions of the corridor as well as in the more mesic habitats in the northwestern portion of the corridor are also favored recreation areas. Protection of these vital habitat features from excessive human recreation, unregulated motorized



access, and overuse by ungulates, including feral horses, would enhance their long-term persistence

on the landscape.

## Are the Risks and Treats Immediate or Long-Term

Late seral communities and invasive plants are an immediate and long-term threat. Managing public access and recreation are long-term, as are sub-urban development, oil and gas leasing and demand for renewable energy such as wind and solar facil-

ities. ROW and rangeland fences are an immediate threat to wildlife movement. Preparing for increasing traffic volume, wildlife vehicle collisions, and wildlife crossing structures is long-term.

## Actions Necessary to Reduce or Eliminate Risks and Threats

Overall, managers believe the risks mule deer face can be addressed to some extent through maintaining relationships with private landowners, oil and gas operators, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local county governments, federal land managers and the public. Ongoing efforts to continue to collaborate with stakeholders to ensure mule deer migration remains unimpeded will be

necessary. IAG and other vegetation management projects need to continue into the future to protect vital habitats from wildfire threat and maintain the habitat quality mule deer require. Fence modifications and removals, conservation easements and appropriate land use decisions are important tools for managers to continue to prioritize.



*Crews implementing prescribed fire treatment in a conifer-dominated aspen community on Monument Ridge.*

## Current Efforts

The WGFD is working with University of Wyoming, WYDOT, Sublette County Conservation District (SCCD), local conservation organizations, BLM, USFS, OSLI, and numerous land owners. The WGFD, in collaboration with the Governor's Office, OSLI, and BLM have been working on mitigation measures to reduce impacts of oil and gas leasing. The WGFD has hired a full-time 3-year Fence Program Manager to oversee wildlife-friendly fencing projects. This position increased capacity and is increasing the amount of funding and time available for these projects. Fence modification and removal efforts have been extremely popular and effective, particularly on private and BLM land. Excellent partnerships with NRCS, SCCD, and landowners have generated a coordinated approach and prioritization of these projects and over 730 miles have been converted to wildlife friendly standards. Cheatgrass management has been very successful through partnerships with Sublette and Teton County Weed and Pest, NRCS, BLM, USFS, OSLI and many private landowners through the Sublette Invasives Taskforce to treat cheatgrass on a landscape level and intentionally across land ownership

boundaries for the last ten years. Over 80,000 acres have been treated in the Sublette Herd.

Habitat management projects have been ongoing through partnerships with private landowners, USFS and BLM. These projects include aspen management through conifer reduction, a variety of shrub enhancement techniques and wet meadow restoration efforts. Cooperative livestock management strategies have also been utilized after wildfires and vegetation treatments.

The Wyoming-USDA Big Game Partnership was initiated in 2023 to emphasize wildlife conservation practices on private land. USDA is supporting this partnership with a focused application of the ACEP, EQIP, and Grassland CRP. Through this partnership, USDA programs work in a complementary way to support big game conservation. The implementation of these programs is prioritized based on areas identified by WGFD and Tribal leaders on the WRIR to be of particular benefit to big game. This Sublette mule deer migration corridor is one of the priority areas for this partnership.



*Mule deer hung up in a non-wildlife friendly fence. Current efforts to convert/modify fences aim to improve fence permeability and prevent entanglement/mortalities.*



## Cost of Current or Needed Habitat Treatments, Road Crossings, Etc.

While a lot of work has been completed in this herd unit, regional personnel continue to work with stakeholders to improve seasonally important habitats, modify and remove fences, and collaborate on land use planning. Over the last five years over \$6,000,000 has been expended on projects including noxious weed control, modifying fences to meet wildlife friendly standards and various habitat

treatments. During the next several years, another \$1,500,000 has been committed working on fence replacement, habitat projects, and noxious weed management, but additional funding is required and would be useful to scale up all efforts. There has been an influx of non-federal private funding in support of wildlife-friendly fencing projects.

## Other Issues for Awareness

Additional collaring efforts are underway to identi-

fy additional seasonal habitat in this herd unit.

## Other Species Impacted

Fence modification projects benefit a variety of big game species including pronghorn, elk and moose as well as sage grouse in some places. Habitat treatments benefit a wide variety of wildlife species both by a direct improvement of foraging habitat as well as reducing the risk of wildfire. Land use

planning including travel management, energy development and county planning and zoning decisions have wide-sweeping impacts by the potential to maintain open space and connected landscapes for many species.



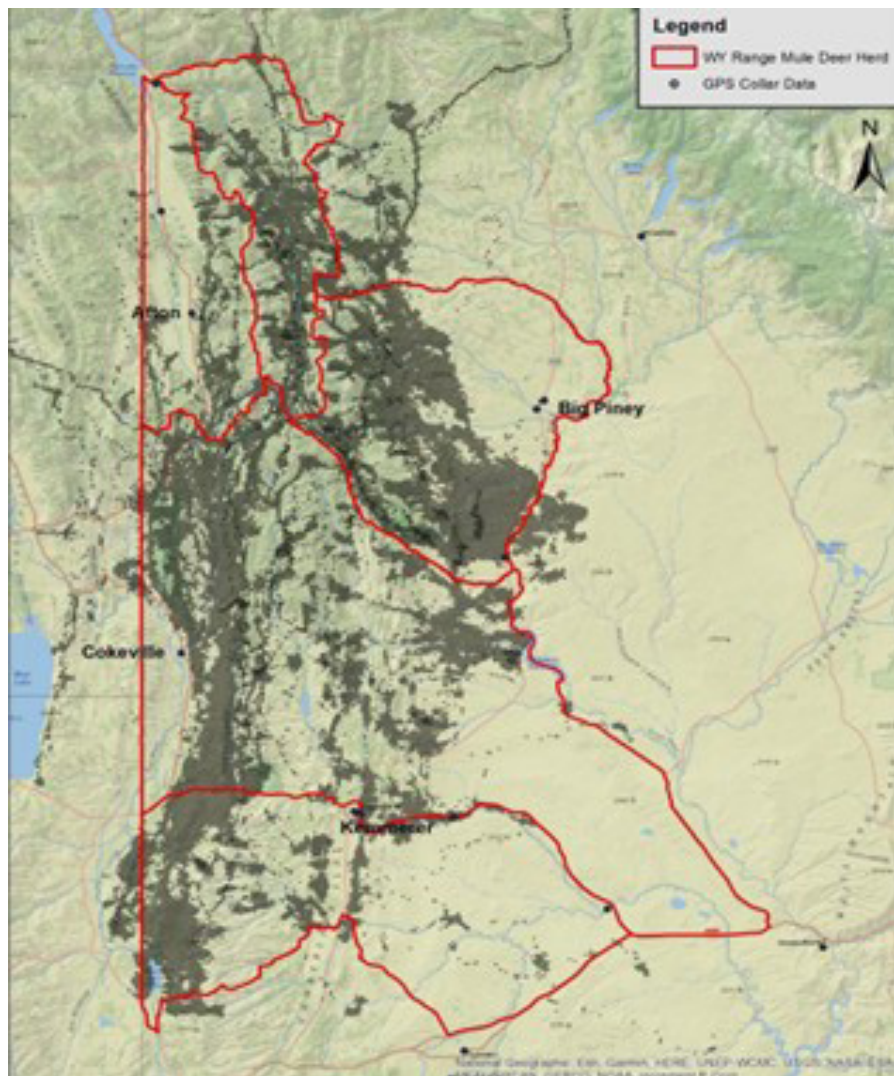


# WYOMING MIGRATION CORRIDOR PRIORITY: WYOMING RANGE MULE DEER

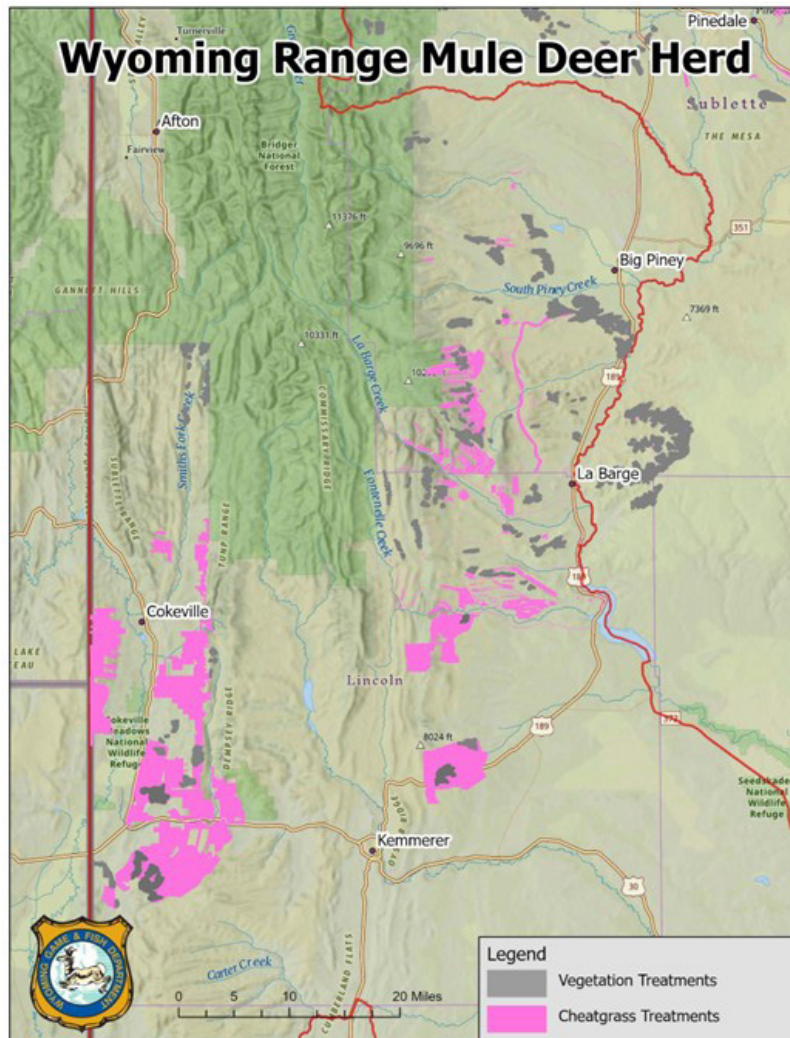
## Priority Selection

The Wyoming Range Mule Deer Herd is one of the premier mule deer populations for both hunting and wildlife viewing in the Intermountain West. This herd has complex and dynamic movement patterns, with some mule deer migrating extensive distances (150+ miles) between high elevation summer ranges to distinct winter range complexes. GPS telemetry studies have been ongoing since 2013 and demonstrate that individual mule deer have a strong fidelity to the same summer and win-

ter ranges. Proactive management is necessary to ensure persistence of migration corridors as mule deer cross a mix of land ownership and land-use patterns. The Herd experienced a significant winter mortality event in 2022-23, killing near 70% of adults and nearly all the fawns. Conservation work to provide the Herd Unit the best opportunity for recovery is a significant priority for WGFD and partners.



*GPS collar data collected in the Wyoming Range mule deer herd.*



*Habitat treatments implemented from 2012-2024 in the Wyoming Range Mule Deer Herd.*

## Spatial Location

The Wyoming Range Mule Deer Herd migrates up to 150 miles between seasonal ranges across western Wyoming, southeastern Idaho, and north-eastern Utah. Primary winter ranges include areas

at the south end of the Wyoming and Salt River Ranges and west of Big Piney and LaBarge. Summer ranges are widespread, primarily in the Wyoming and Salt River Mountain ranges.

## Habitat Types

Mid to high elevation summer ranges include alpine basins, spruce-fir forests, aspen stands and mountain meadow/tall forb communities. Fall/transition areas at slightly lower elevation contain mountain big sagebrush, mixed conifers, aspen, and riparian communities. Lower elevation foothill and basin habitats are typified by Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush communities, interspersed with areas of antelope bitterbrush and mixed-mountain shrubs.

Sagebrush dominated winter range habitats are primarily located along the southern and southeastern flanks of the Wyoming Range and include some juniper, isolated aspen stands, and limited acreages of antelope bitterbrush. Much of the winter range habitats are sagebrush and desert shrub basins, with rocky outcrops and topographically diverse canyons.

## Important Stopover Areas Within the Corridor

Recent research indicates that mule deer spend over 90% of migration in a series of stopover sites where they congregate to feed and replenish energy stores with nutritious forage. In many instances, stopover sites overlap with delineated crucial winter range habitat due to the extensive movement

into and through winter habitats as snow depth and winter severity increases. This is especially true in the Wyoming Range, and illustrates the importance of stopover habitat within migration corridors as foraging habitats.

## Land Ownership

During annual migrations, the Wyoming Range Herd crosses a mix of land ownership patterns. Most summer ranges are located on USFS lands,

while transition areas and winter ranges can include a variety of USFS, BLM, OSLI and private lands.

## Land Uses

Land use on both USFS and BLM lands include livestock grazing, timber harvest, motorized and non-motorized recreation, and energy development. Some BLM lands are designated as ACEC, SRMA, SMAs, or WSAs. Some BLM lands in the Pinedale and Kemmerer field offices also have closures to motorized vehicles on crucial winter ranges. Some Wyoming Range mule deer move through the Raymond Mountain WSA and Rock Creek ACEC, as well as the Lake Mountain WSA. Conservation easements are in place to protect habitats on

some private lands. Mule deer migrate through parcels that have been leased for oil and gas, or areas with ongoing energy development and production. OSLI lands are managed primarily for long-term growth in value and optimum, sustainable revenue production to generate funds for public schools. Accordingly, the primary uses of these lands are livestock grazing and energy development. Private lands along the corridor are primarily used for agriculture and suburban development.

## Risks and Threats

Portions of the Wyoming Range Mule Deer Migration Corridor are intact and functional with significant conservation work already completed to facilitate habitat enhancements, highway crossings, and wildlife-friendly fencing. Continued private land subdivision and development is a concern. IAG invasion, primarily cheatgrass, is a concern and in places has decreased habitat functionality. Significant resources must be put into the treatment of IAGs or proactive habitat enhancements will not be feasible. Furthermore, late seral vegetation and conifer encroachment into aspen and sagebrush communities has decreased forage conditions throughout the Herd Unit on both winter range complexes and transitional/summer habitats.

ROW and rangeland fences continue to pose a significant risk, many of which are old and not constructed to wildlife-friendly specifications.

Increasing traffic volumes in the Corridor can impact seasonal movements and may become a more significant barrier. Mule deer habitats are often favored recreation areas; protection from excessive human recreation (motorized and non-motorized) could enhance long-term functionality on the landscape. Additional wind energy projects and solar farms seem imminent and subdivision and recreational property development will likely have adverse impacts. Minimizing or mitigating disturbance and habitat fragmentation in the Corridor will benefit mule deer habitats.





*Modifying fences to include crossing structures, such as an “x-gate” (pictured), has been prioritized within the Wyoming Range Herd.*

## Are the Risks and Threats Immediate or Long-Term

Establishment of IAG communities is an immediate and long-term threat. Improving vegetation conditions and fence permeability are long-term threats that have ongoing attention. Managing public access and recreation are long-term, as is sub-

urban development and energy development. Increasing traffic volume, wildlife vehicle collisions, and wildlife crossing structures are also long-term issues.

## Actions Necessary to Reduce or Eliminate Risks and Threats

Maintaining collaborative relationships with private landowners, oil and gas operators, NGOs, county governments, federal land managers and the public is essential to ensure mule deer migration remains unimpeded and functioning at a high level.

Management actions in this Herd have proven to be most successful with a collaborative approach. Conservation easements are strongly supported as an important tool to maintain open space.

## Current Efforts

Habitat enhancement in cooperation with federal land management agencies, livestock grazing permittees, and private landowners will continue into the future. Over the last decade, approximately 11,000 acres of sagebrush-grassland habitats were treated with herbicide to control IAGs within the Big Piney to Fontenelle Creek area and additional spot treatments have been completed in prescribed

burn areas and mechanical habitat treatments. Just under 19,000 acres of sagebrush improvement has taken place and over 3,000 acres of aspen habitats have been targeted for enhancement in the northern portion of the herd unit. Along with weed treatments and habitat restoration efforts, partners have worked to defer livestock grazing in treatment areas and to improve grazing rotations in riparian areas

utilizing temporary electric fences, additional riders, and virtual fence technology. Habitat enhancement efforts for the southern Wyoming Range area included: 8,600 acres of sagebrush mowing treatments, 21 miles of fence replaced with wildlife friendly specifications, 1,190 acres of conifer thinning to restore aspen habitat, and 126,350 acres of aerial herbicide treatment to control cheatgrass in sagebrush-grassland and mixed mountain shrub habitats (some of which were re-treated acres). Cheatgrass control treatments will be essential moving forward in order to maintain the ecological integrity and function along mule deer migration routes and crucial winter ranges.

WGFD is working with WYDOT and other part-

ners to address wildlife crossings throughout the Herd Unit. Underpasses and game fencing have been installed at critical highway crossings at Nugget Canyon and Dry Piney to facilitate movement to native winter ranges. In 2023, the Dry Piney Wildlife Crossing Project completed the construction of 9 underpasses and 16 miles of high fence. The next large wildlife crossing project on Highway 189, south of Kemmerer, is in the implementation phase after securing \$24.4 million of Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program funds in the first round of applications. This project will improve several existing underpasses, constructing 7 new underpasses, 1 overpass, and approximately 30 miles of high fence.

## **Cost of Current or Needed Habitat Treatments, Road Crossings, Etc.**

On-going aspen and sagebrush projects on BLM land in the Big Piney to LaBarge have been well supported by various funding partners, however, current efforts have identified new project locations that will require funding assistance over the next 5 to 10 years. The 10-year project implementation on additional private land and BLM land on the south end of the Wyoming Range is only partially funded (\$1 million funded by the BLM of an

anticipated \$6 million total cost). Cheatgrass management, aspen restoration efforts, and fence modification projects will require significant funding for many years into the future. Fence reconstruction projects cost approximately \$25,000 per mile and cheatgrass treatments cost \$70 per acre. Smaller, locally-led solutions to wildlife/vehicle collisions without structure construction are less costly and are being pursued throughout the Herd Unit.



*Trail cameras are used to monitor the effectiveness of the Dry Piney wildlife crossing project (Photo credit: WYDOT).*

## Other Issues for Awareness

Additional deer migration corridors are suspected throughout portions of the herd unit. Beginning in December of 2022, the WGFD deployed an ad-

ditional 200 collars on juveniles, adult females and males to assist in the effort of filling in gaps.

## Other Species Impacted

Fence modification projects benefit a variety of big game species, including pronghorn, elk, and moose as well as sage grouse in some places. Habitat treatments benefit a wide variety of wildlife species, by improving foraging habitat and reducing

wildfire risk. Land use planning, including travel management, energy development and county planning and zoning decisions, have wide-swept impacts with the potential to maintain open space and connected landscapes.



*Prescribed fire has been used throughout the Wyoming Range Herd to improve mule deer habitat.*



# CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

## Ungulate Migration Corridor Strategy

WGFD spent several months working with the public and stakeholders to develop a strategy for conserving ungulate migration corridors. The culmination of that inclusive process was the Ungulate Migration Corridor Strategy, adopted by the WGFC at their January 2016 Commission meeting. Migration corridors are considered “vital” under

this strategy, which also identifies key components of corridor, bottleneck, and stop-over research findings. Additionally, the WGFC revised the standard range definitions to include ungulate migration corridor, ungulate stopover, ungulate migration bottleneck, and ungulate movement route use by WGFD personnel.

## Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Activities

The WGFC has contributed significantly to improved management of migration corridors through funding research, highway crossing projects and on-the-ground improvement projects. WGFC awarded \$5million dollars over ten years towards 18priority Mule Deer Initiative herds. These funds have been matched by outside funding totaling \$32.4 million dollars. In total, 85proj-

ects have been funded that address either direct habitat challenges or studies that are designated to target future habitat actions. WGFC and partners have contributed over \$50,000,000 towards highway crossing projects. Additionally, from 2020 to 2025, WGFC contributed more than \$1.75 million towards invasive annual grass mapping, treatment, and prevention in important habitats.

## Wyoming Governor’s Advisory Group for Migration

In 2019, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon tasked a Migration Corridor Advisory Group with developing recommendations to improve the state’s policies related to big game migration. The Advisory Group’s recommendations begin with an overarching call to pursue an Executive Order related to big game migration corridors and the industries, economies and private landowners that enhance, overlap, and grow from Wyoming’s world-class migrations. The Advisory Group included representatives from oil and gas, mining, and agriculture

sectors as well as conservation, recreation, sportsmen groups, and a county commissioner.

This effort was followed up by local stakeholder-based local working groups for the Platte Valley, Baggs and Sublette Mule Deer Herds. The local working groups generated recommendations for the Governor and WGFD to improve future conservation work in these corridors, as well as ways to improve upon the Governor’s Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection Executive Order.

## Wyoming Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection Executive Order 2020-1

In 2020, the Governor signed into effect the 2020-1 MCEO. The MCEO designated the Platte Valley, Baggs and Sublette Mule Deer Migration Corridors and outlined a process for additional corridors to be designated or identified in the future. The MCEO also identified how development and disturbances

should be managed in order to ensure functionality of the migration corridors into the future.

In 2023 and 2024, WGFD identified two migration corridors through the MCEO public process. The Sublette Pronghorn Migration Corridor was identified in 2024 and the WGFC utilized the Biological

Risk and Opportunity Assessment in 2025 to justify a recommendation to the Governor to consider designation of the corridor. The Governor is working with a local work group to help determine if designation is warranted for this corridor. The Upper Wind River Mule Deer Migration Corridor

overlaps the Dubois Mule Deer Herd and includes deer that spend considerable time on the WRIR. This Corridor was deemed appropriate for identification in September 2024 and will continue to be prioritized for conservation efforts.

## Wyoming Migration Initiative

The WMI is a model for catalyzing science-based conservation and management of wildlife corridors. Founded in 2012 as a project of the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, WMI collaborates to collect data needed to effectively conserve migratory wildlife (Kauffman, 2016). The

Ungulate Migrations of the Western United States Atlas, published annually since 2020, provides the public with an opportunity to access geospatial data through the United States Geological Survey Science Base-Catalog



## Wyoming Wildlife Roadways

A collaborative effort between WGFD and WY-DOT was initiated to reduce wildlife/vehicle collisions as a result of the 2017 Wyoming Wildlife and Roadways Summit. The Wyoming Wildlife and Roadways Initiative Implementation Team is a multi-stakeholder group tasked with prioritizing and implementing highway crossing projects that were identified at the Summit (Lutz et al. 2017).

## Movement Matters Team

In January 2022, the WGFD Movement Matters Team was assembled to address wildlife and fish migration, a top priority for WGFD. The Team's overall goal is to strengthen the WGFD's position as a national leader in technical expertise and the implementation of conservation efforts for big game migration and fish movement. Team members are responsible for serving as subject matter

In 2021, a second Wyoming Wildlife and Roadways Summit was held to bring stakeholders back together and encourage additional momentum around wildlife crossing projects across Wyoming. Success stories and lessons learned were shared, as well as updates on new scientific information available to encourage the best design features for future projects.

experts for WGFD on fish and wildlife migrations, provide information and recommendations to the WGFD Director's Office and to communicate with their respective divisions as liaisons. The Team developed an Operational Plan in 2023 which was also updated in 2025 that includes recommendations and action items to complete in the coming years.

## National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Funds

In 2019, WGFD, in collaboration with Mule Deer Foundation, received a total of \$913,000 from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) under the grant program - Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big Game Range and Migrations Corridors Fall 2018. Funds were allocated in the following manner:

- \$150,000 for Platte Valley Herd invasive species and habitat work
- \$719,550 for Sublette Herd Initiative invasive

species and fence work

In 2020, WGFD was awarded \$249,000 of NFWF funds through the same grant program. The funds were allocated in the following manner:

- \$60,000 for Dubois Herd invasive species work
- \$75,000 for Baggs Herd fence work
- \$114,000 for Wyoming Range Herd fence and invasive species work





In 2021, WGFD was awarded \$591,000 of NFWF funds through the same grant program. The funds were allocated in the following manner:

- \$130,000 for Dubois Herd invasive species, fence and aspen work
- \$100,000 for Platte Valley Herd invasive species work
- \$340,000 for Sublette Herd fence and aspen work
- \$21,000 for Wyoming Range Herd fence work

In 2022, WGFD was awarded \$280,000 of NFWF funds through the same grant program. The funds were allocated in the following manner:

- \$75,000 for Platte Valley Herd fence work
- \$185,000 for Sublette Herd fence and invasive species work
- \$20,000 for Wyoming Range Herd fence work

In 2023, WGFD was awarded \$732,500 of NFWF funds through the same grant program. The funds were allocated in the following manner:

- \$110,000 for Dubois Herd fence and aspen work
- \$187,500 for North Bighorn Herd fence, conifer removal, aspen and BDA work

- \$100,000 for Platte Valley Herd fence and conifer removal work
- \$150,000 for Sublette Herd fence and invasive species work
- \$185,000 for Wyoming Range Herd fence, invasive and sagebrush work

In 2024, WGFD was awarded \$961,250 of NFWF funds through the same grant program. The funds were allocated in the following manner:

- \$500,000 for Bates Hole Herd for fence and invasive species work
- \$201,250 for the Dubois Herd for conifer thinning, ROW fence and invasive species work
- \$260,000 for the Platte Valley Herd for fence and invasive species work

In 2025, WGFD was awarded \$515,527 of NFWF funds through the same grant program. The funds were allocated in the following manner:

- \$16,000 for Platte Valley Herd fence work
- \$249,527 for South Rock Springs Herd juniper and cheatgrass work
- \$250,000 for Wyoming Range Herd fences and invasive species work

## Partners for Fish and Wildlife Funds

In 2019, WGFD and USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program received a total of \$293,000 to implement projects associated with SO 3362. The funds were awarded in the following manner and the actions are further described in the herd units listed below:

- \$150,000 for Baggs Herd wildlife highway and habitat enhancement work
- \$113,800 for Sublette Herd fence work
- \$30,000 for Platte Valley Herd fence work

In 2020, WGFD and USFWS PFW Program received a total of \$116,500 to implement projects associated with SO 3362. The funds were awarded in the following manner and the actions are further

described in the herd units listed below:

- \$47,500 for Wyoming Range Herd fence work
- \$49,000 for Baggs Herd grazing management and water development work
- \$20,000 for Dubois Herd fence work

In 2021, WGFD and USFWS PFW Program received a total of \$187,000 to implement projects associated with SO 3362. The funds were awarded in the following manner and the actions are further described in the herd units listed below:

- \$19,000 for Dubois Herd reservoir work
- \$63,000 for Platte Valley Herd fence work
- \$105,000 for Sublette Herd fence work

## Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3362 Research Funds

In 2018 and 2019, the DOI provided the WGFD \$300,000 to assist with data collection efforts in Research Priority Herds. In 2018, \$175,000 was provided for Carter Mountain Pronghorn and \$125,000 for Powder River and Pumpkin Buttes Mule Deer GPS collar projects. In 2019, \$125,000

was provided to Sublette Pronghorn, \$40,000 was provided for Medicine Bow Pronghorn—Shirley Basin, \$50,000 was provided for Platte Valley Mule Deer and \$85,000 was provided for North Bighorn Mule Deer GPS collar projects. Research is ongoing in several of these herds.

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

**ACEC** - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

**ACEP** - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

**BBMM** - Brownian Bridge Movement Model

**BLM** - Bureau of Land Management

**CCWP** - Carbon County Weed and Pest

**CRP** - Grassland Conservation Reserve Program

**CWD** - Chronic Wasting Disease

**DOI** - Department of Interior

**EQIP** - Environmental Quality Incentives Program

**GPS** - Global Positioning System

**IAG** - Invasive annual grass

**LSRCD** - Little Snake River Conservation District

**MBNF** - Medicine Bow National Forest

**MCEO** - Wyoming Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection Executive Order

**NEPA** - National Environmental Policy Act

**NFWF** - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**NGOs** - Non-governmental organizations

**NPS** - National Park Service

**NRCS** - Natural Resources Conservation Service

**OSLI** - Office of State Lands and Investments

**ROW** - Right-Of-Way

**SCCD** - Sublette County Conservation District

**SMA** - Special Management Areas

**SO 3362** - Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3362

**SRMA** - Special Recreation Management Areas

**USDA** - United States Department of Agriculture

**USFS** - United States Forest Service

**USFWS** - United States Fish and Wildlife Service

**USFWS PFW** - USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife

**WGFC** - Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

**WGFD** - Wyoming Game and Fish Department

**WHMA** - Wildlife Habitat Management Areas

**WMI** - Wyoming Migration Initiative

**WRIR** - Wind River Indian Reservation

**WSA** - Wilderness Study Areas

**WYDOT** - Wyoming Department of Transportation