Migration Corridor Policy and Conservation in the Western U.S.

Ed Arnett, Chief Scientist and Carl Erquiaga, NV Field Representative

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Public Lands Foundation Annual Meeting
12 September 2019
Mission: Guaranteeing All Americans Quality Places to Hunt and Fish
Some Historical and Sage Advice...

“There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country.”

Confession of Faith Speech, Progressive National Convention, Chicago, Ill., Aug. 6, 1912

“It is not what we have that will make us a great nation; it is the way in which we use it.”

Hunting Trips of a Ranchman and The Wilderness Hunter

— Theodore Roosevelt
Balancing Multiple Uses...
Federal Land Management and State Wildlife Population Objectives
Synergy in Wildlife Conservation
Sec Order 3362 – Big Game Winter Range and Migratory Corridors
Journey of Mule Deer 255

- Deer 255 spring migration (2016)
  Total migration ~ 242 miles
- Red Desert to Hoback migration discovery (2013)
  Total migration ~ 150 miles

MIGRATION ROUTES AND I-80

Cartography by InfoGraphics Lab, University of Oregon
MigrationInitiative.org
Implementation of Sec Order 3362

CONSERVATION DURABILITY!

Federal:

• Ensure all directives are implemented:
  * all existing regulations, guidance documents, policies, instructions, manuals, directives, notices, implementing actions, and any other similar actions to be consistent with the requirements in this Order
• Incorporated into RMPs and actions implemented; RMP amendments if necessary

• Greater engagement by USDA – USFS and NRCS
Implementation of Sec Order 3362

CONSERVATION DURABILITY!

Federal:

• Balancing Energy Development and Competing Policies (e.g., energy dominance)
  ➢ Leasing and lease deferrals
Implementation of Sec Order 3362

CONSERVATION DURABILITY!

Federal:
• Renewable Energy Projects?
  ➢ Lacking science on response to development
Bald Mountain Mine Reclamation

Received Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation Committee award
State Research and Mgt.
States Leading on Policy

Wyoming G&F Designation Process

Executive Orders and Policy:
• e.g., NM, OR and CO
• WY Gov. Advisory Committee – E.O. forthcoming

WGA Resolution – signed at summer 2019 meeting in Vail

Photo courtesy of Joe Riis
NGO Engagement

Stakeholder Workshops - lead by NWF in partnership with TRCP and WLA

Held this summer in ID, OR and NV

Report due from Ruckelshaus Institute in a few weeks...summary of findings
NGO Engagement

Research Gap Analysis – WMI/TRCP

Policy Framework Assessment – WMI/TRCP

Transportation Issues – 2020 Hwy Bill

Photo courtesy of Joe Riis
ALL Eleven States Identified Roads/Highways as a Key Threat!
UNGULATES and HIGHWAYS WORKSHOP

80 Participants representing:
12 state DOTs
11 wildlife agencies
Fed Highway Admin.
DOI, NRCS
\Hwy Loss Data Institute
NGOs
Foundations

Photo courtesy of Pinedale Online
Key Findings

Leadership! At the top and throughout - identify champions in DOT regions – and don’t forget operations!

Also, State Legislature and Gubernatorial support

Transportation plans and planning processes are long-term, extensive, complex - essential for wildlife collision and movement issues to be incorporated in planning process EARLY and OFTEN!

Broad/diverse partnerships strengthen grant proposals!

Effectively involve other stakeholders, such as landowners, tribes, sporting and conservation groups, and the public
Workshop Website

https://sites.google.com/view/big-game-and-highways-workshop/
Transportation Policy/Funding

2020 Transportation Bill now being drafted

TRCP Policy Council/AWCP Letter to Senate EPW and Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee (signed by 44 groups)

Recommendations:

• New “Innovation Fund” for Fish and Wildlife Connectivity (at least $50 million annually)
• Remove $10 million cap for wildlife projects from FLTP
• Increase Forest Road funding to $250 million and reauthorize USFS’s Legacy Roads & Trails
• Continue investment in Federal Lands Access Program to enhance public recreational access
Senate Bill Passed Unanimously out of EPW Committee - 21-0!!!

Includes a competitive pilot grant program for $250 million over 5-years dedicated to wildlife crossings

House Bill expected to be forthcoming, possibly before the New Year… Current bill expires at end of FY 2020
THANKS Very Much!

Guaranteeing YOU a place to HUNT and FISH

www.trcp.org