

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



TRCP



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



Photo courtesy of Joe Riis

Synergy in Wildlife Conservation



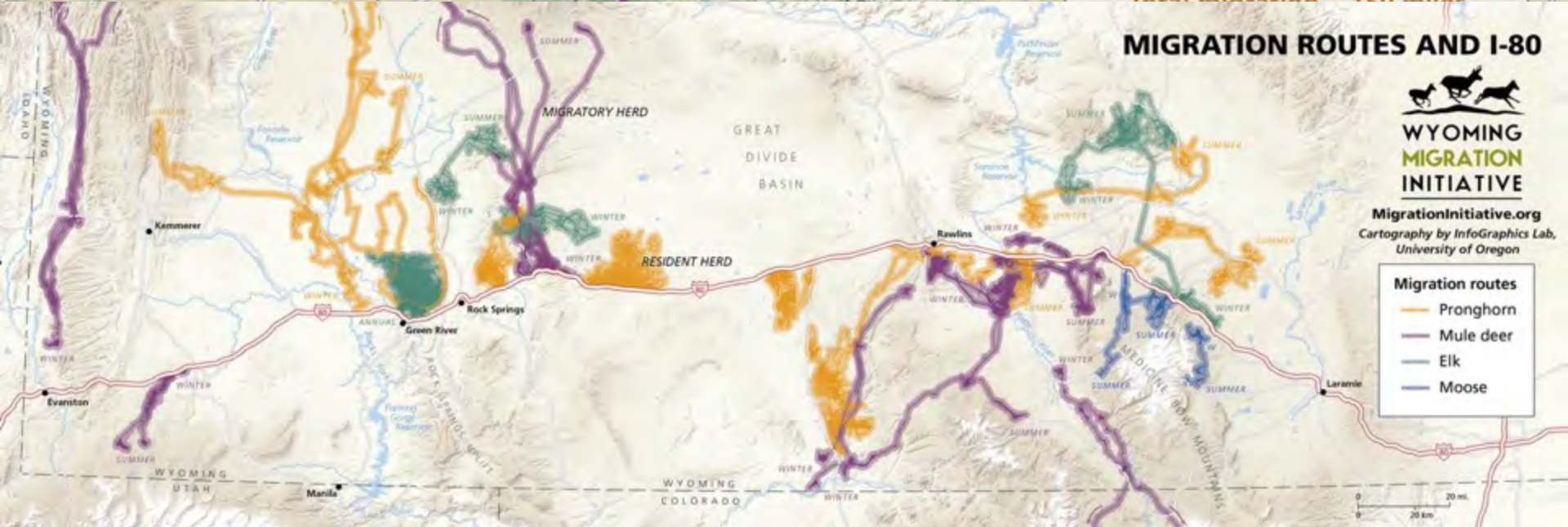
Sec Order 3362 – Big Game Winter Range and Migratory Corridors





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



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



Legend

- BLM Q3 Preliminary Leases (Second batch)
- Red Desert to Hoback migration corridor

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
© 2018 Google

20 mi



Photo courtesy of

Implementation of Sec Order 3362

CONSERVATION DURABILITY!

Federal:

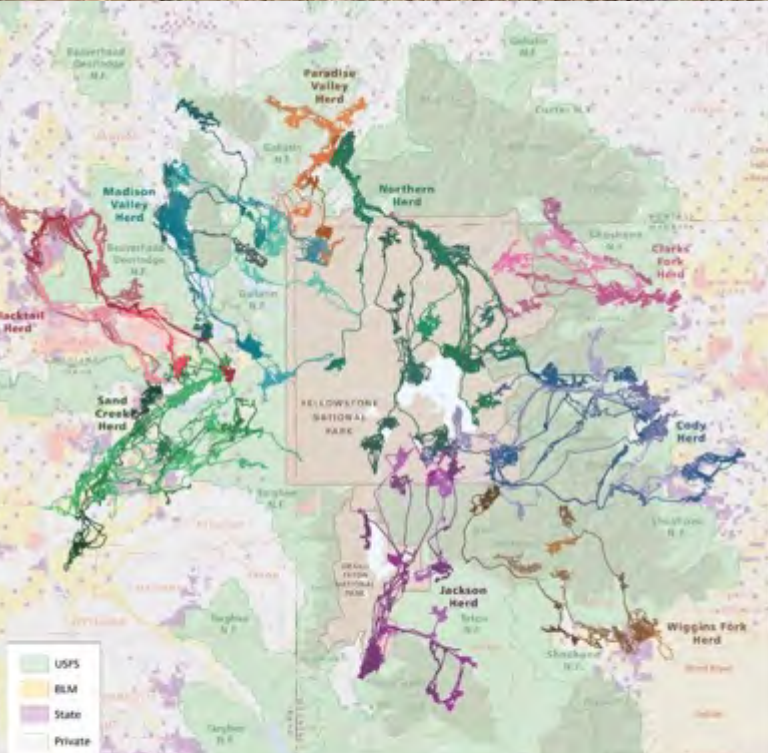
- **Renewable Energy Projects?**
 - **Lacking science on response to development**

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**

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

ALL Eleven States Identified Roads/Highways as a Key Threat!



Photo courtesy of Wyoming Game & Fish Department



© Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife & ECO-resolutions

129 OP-E

RECONYX

35.96RC55

RECONYX

UNGULATES and HIGHWAYS WORKSHOP



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



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

[Home](#) · [About Workshop](#) · [Agenda and Presentations](#) · [Workshop Proceedings](#) · [Additional Information](#)

Ungulates and Highways Workshop

January 29-31, 2019

Photo courtesy of Josh Richert - Blue Valley Ranch
Colorado SH 9

[About Workshop](#)

[Agenda and Presentations](#)

[Workshop Proceedings](#)

[Additional Information](#)

Sponsored by



FEDERAL



<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!



TRCP

Guaranteeing YOU a place to HUNT and FISH
www.trcp.org