

HABITAT

A male deer with large, multi-tined antlers stands in a field of tall, dry grass. The background is filled with dark evergreen trees under a grey, overcast sky. The overall scene is a natural habitat.

PLATTE VALLEY HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

MULE DEER HABITAT

“Food”

“Water”

“Shelter”

“Space”



FOOD & WATER



Mule deer need higher quality, more specific foods

- **Leaves/browse, newly emergent grasses and forbs have higher concentrations of readily digestible nutrients**

Why?

- Have smaller stomachs than other ungulates relative to body size
 - rumeno-reticular ratio of ~ 0.10 , with intestinal lengths of 12-15x their body length
 - Food passes more quickly but ability to digest carbohydrates declines
 - *Bison have ratio of ~ 0.24 , with intestinal lengths of 25-30x their body length*

SHELTER

Shelter from Weather

- Wind
- Rain
- Snow

Hiding Cover

- Predators

Thermal Cover

- Hot
- Cold



SPACE

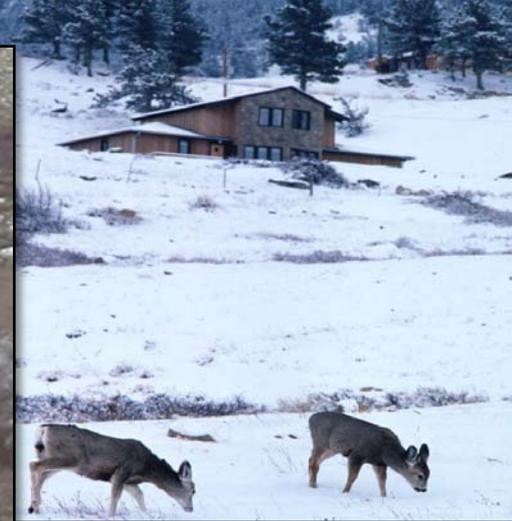
Residential Development

Vehicle Disturbance

Energy Development

Other Ungulates

**All of these
limit mule deer**

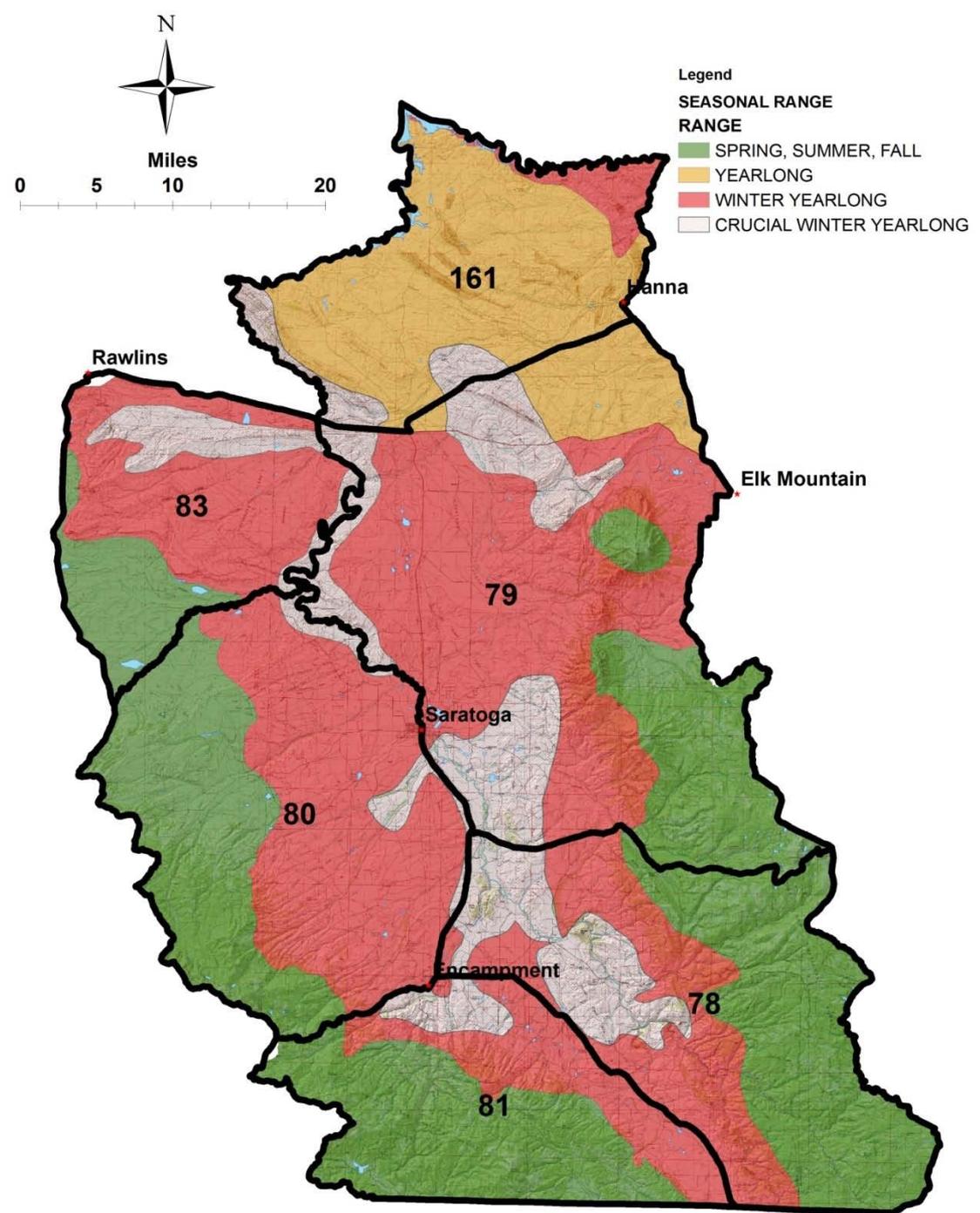


Mule deer were less likely to use areas within 1.2 to 1.8 miles of well pads in winter ranges of western Wyoming (Sawyer et al. 2006, 2009).

SEASONAL RANGES

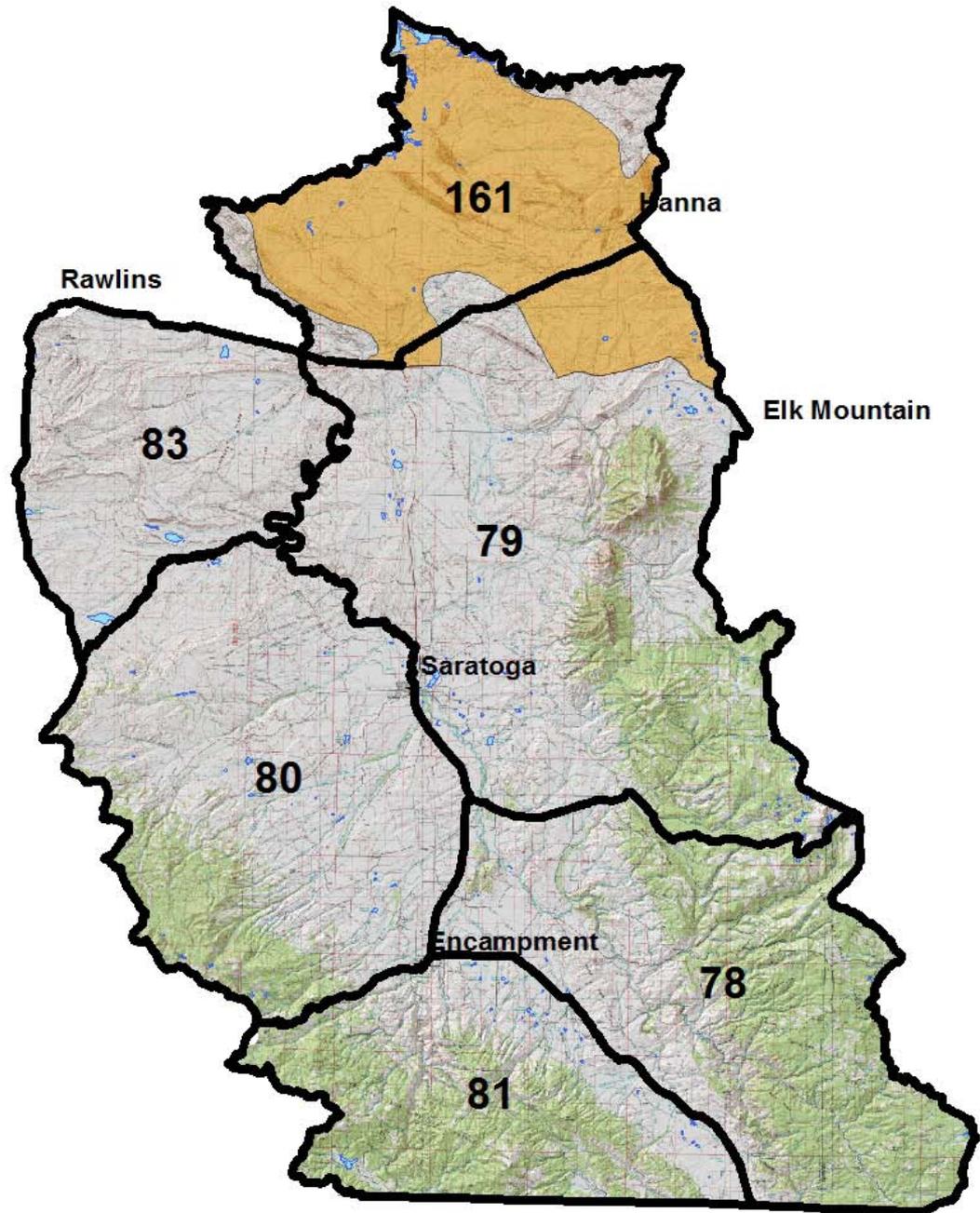
for the PLATTE VALLEY MULE DEER HERD UNIT

- Revised in 1987
- Defined by time of use during the year
- WY Chapter of The Wildlife Society



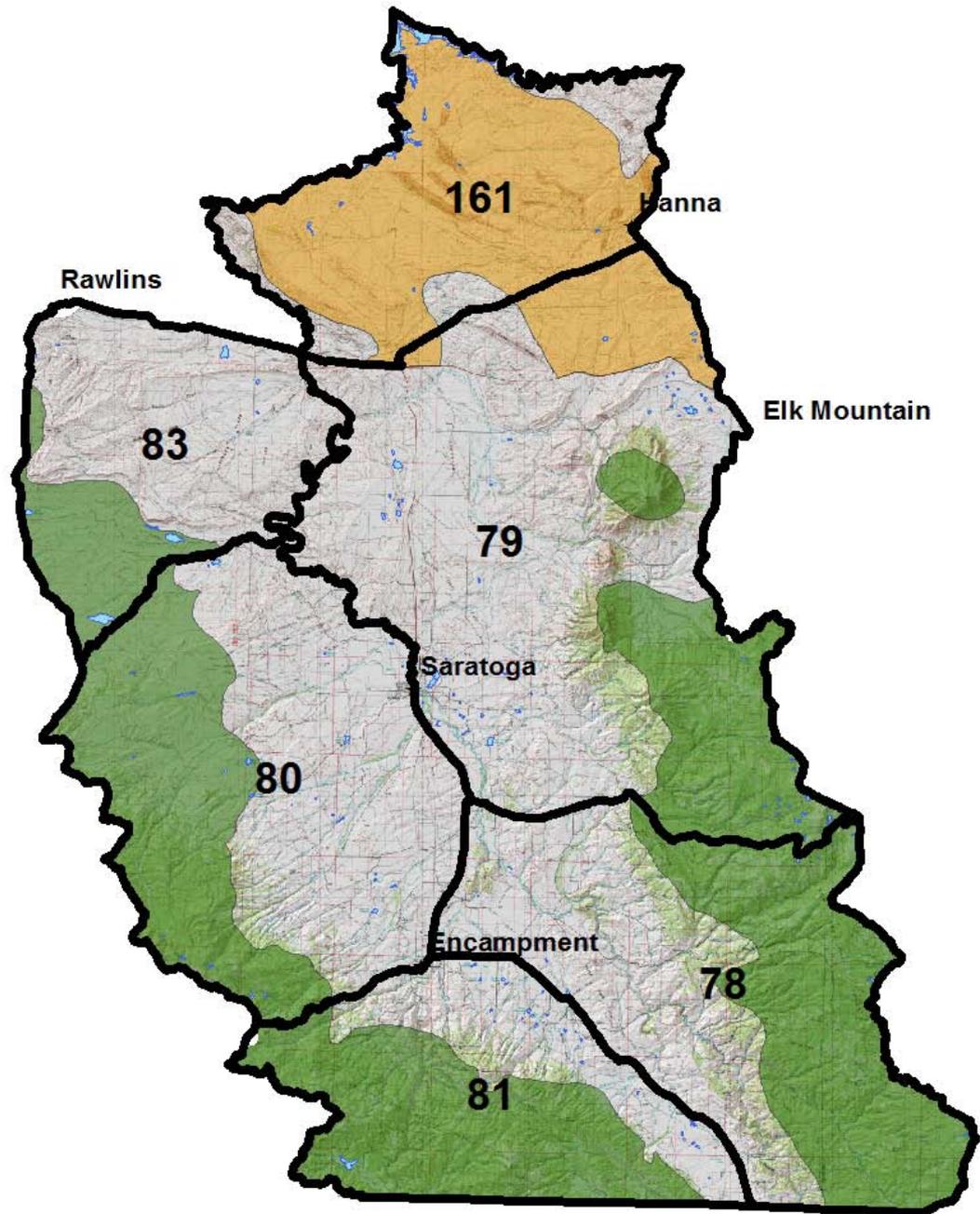
YEARLONG RANGE

- A population or portion of a population makes general use of the suitable habitat within the range on a year-round basis.



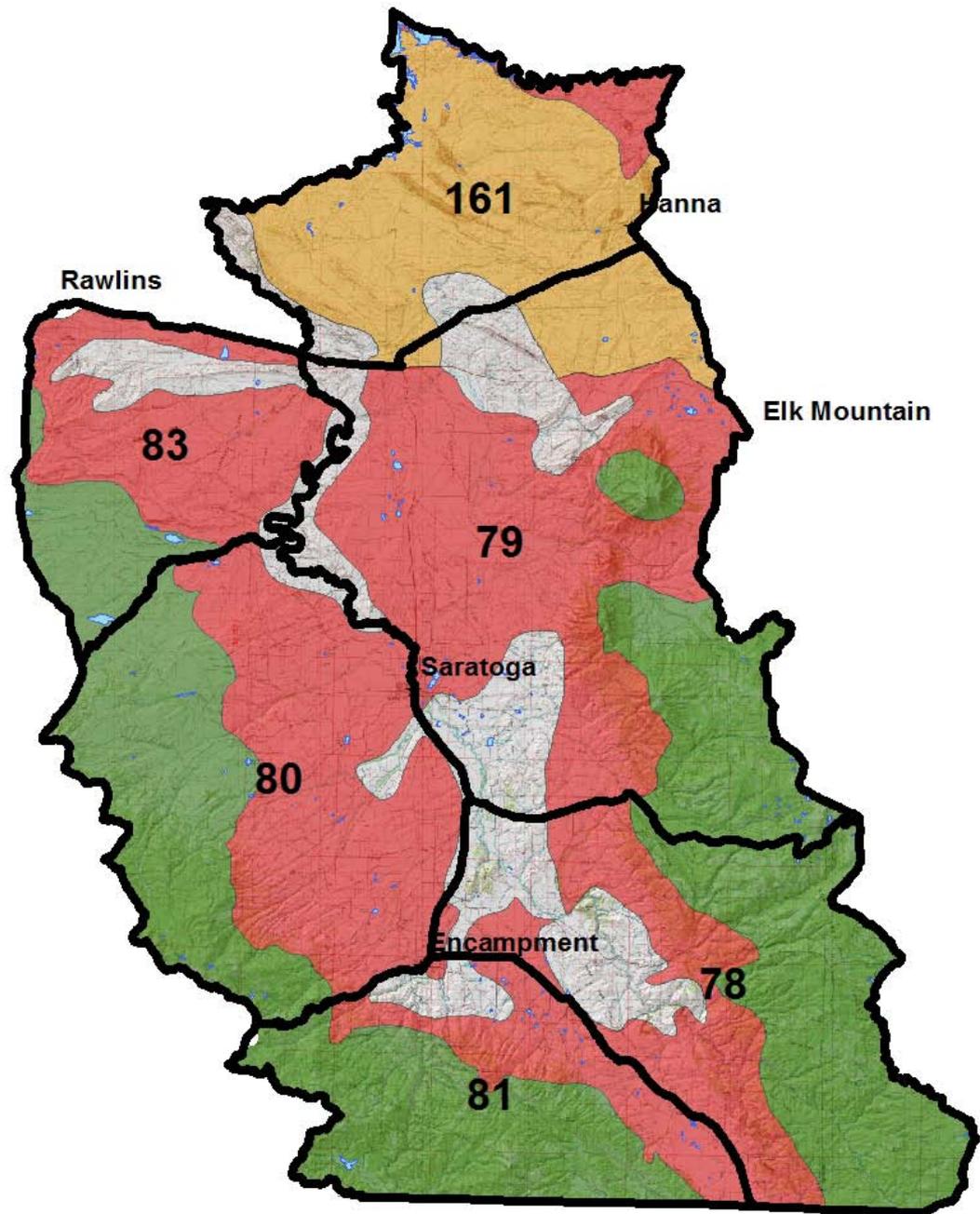
SPRING, SUMMER, FALL RANGE

- A population or portion of a population use suitable habitats within this range annually only (*from the previous winter*) to the onset of persistent winter conditions (5/1 – 11/14, adopted by WGFD in 2004)



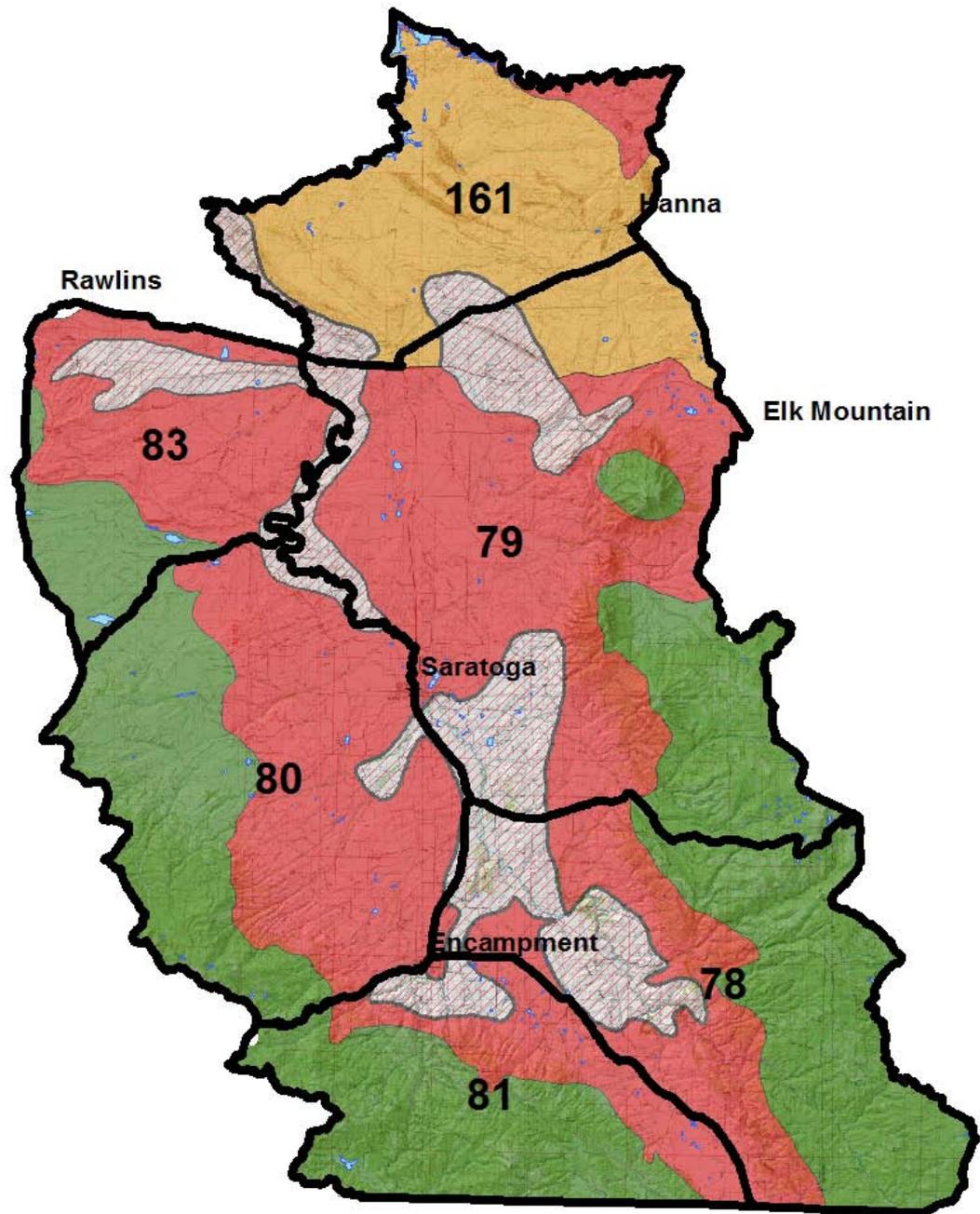
WINTER YEARLONG RANGE

- A population or a portion of a population makes general use of suitable habitat within this range on a year-round basis. But during the winter months, there is a significant influx of additional animals into the area from other seasonal ranges. (11/15 – 4/30, adopted by WGFD in 2004)



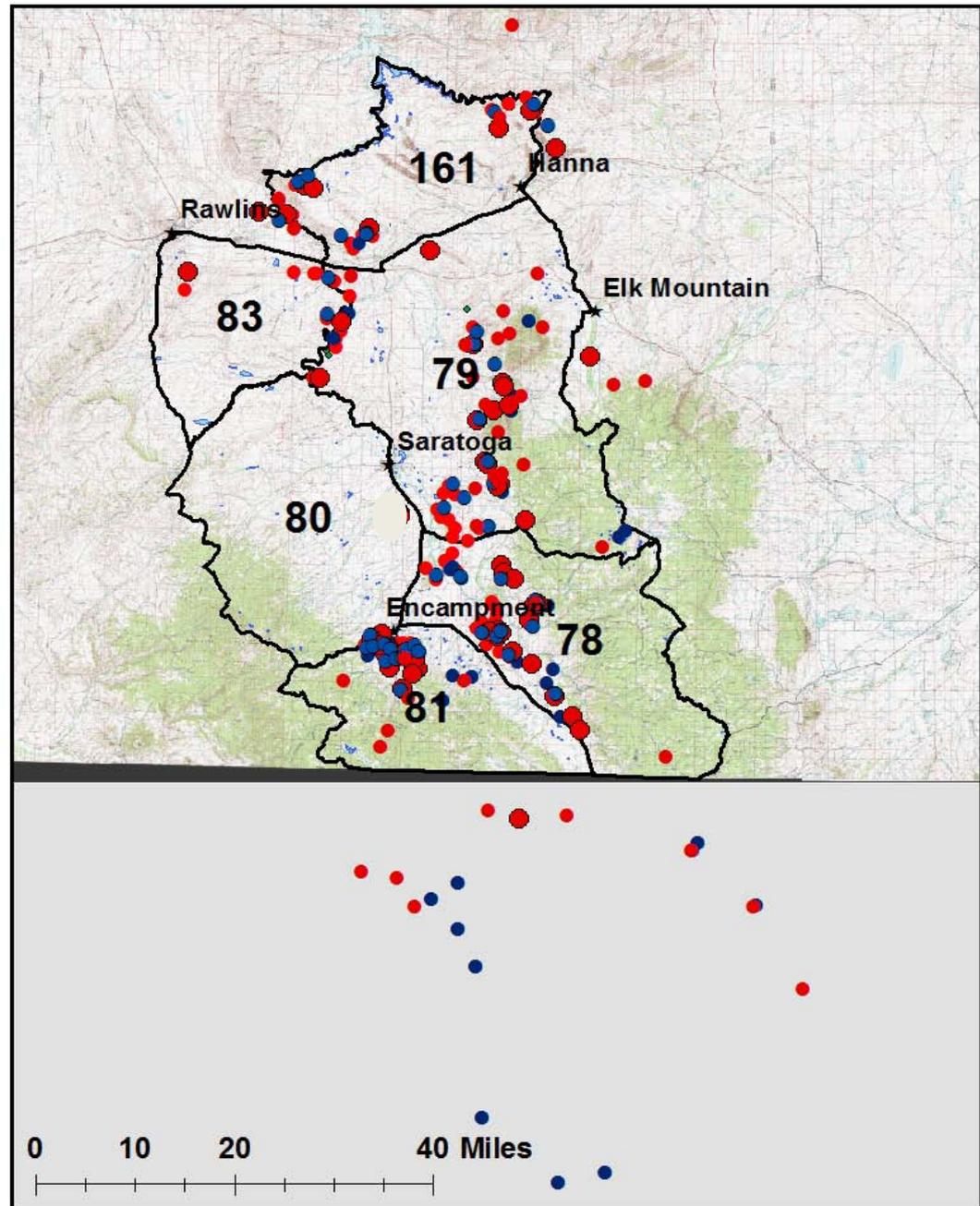
CRUCIAL WINTER YEARLONG RANGE

- Crucial range can describe any particular seasonal range or habitat component (*often winter or winter/yearlong range in Wyoming*) but describes that component which has been documented as the determining factor in a population's ability to maintain itself at a certain level (*theoretically at or above the WGFD population objective*) over the long term.



RADIO-COLLAR DATA

- Final data available late 2013
- Use refine current seasonal ranges





Questions