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Acknowledgements

The data contained in these reports were collected by the combined efforts of Pinedale, Jackson and Green River Region Wildlife Division personnel, including District Wildlife Biologists, District Game Wardens, Wildlife Management Coordinators, Region Supervisors, Terrestrial Habitat Biologists, Wildlife Technicians and other Department personnel and volunteers working in the field and at check stations. The authors express their sincere appreciation to all those who assisted with data collection.

2024 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Bighorn Sheep
HERD: BS121 - DARBY MOUNTAIN
HUNT AREAS: 24

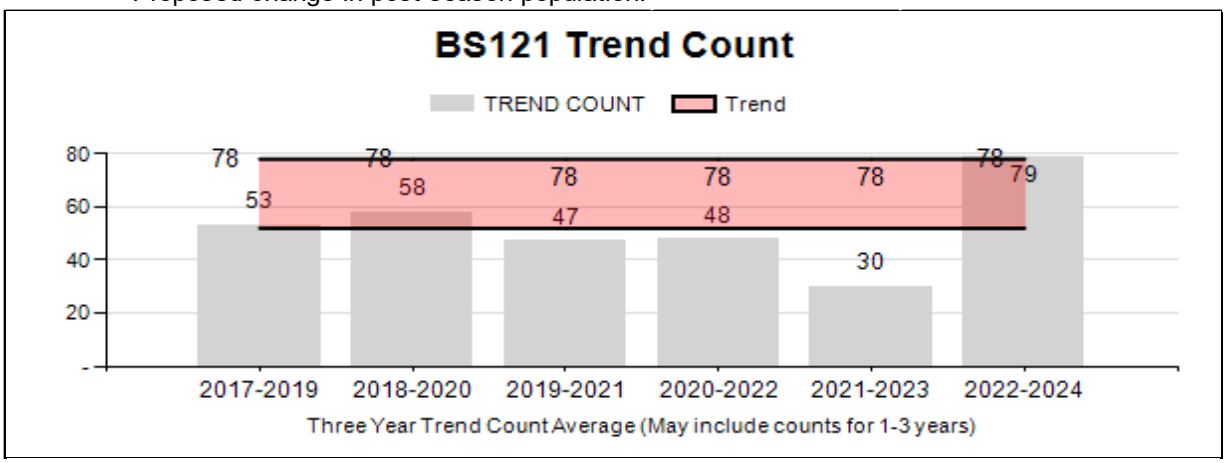
PERIOD: 6/1/2024 - 5/31/2025
PREPARED BY: GARY FRALICK

	2019 - 2023 Average	2024	2025 Proposed
Trend Count:	47	79	65
Harvest:	1	0	1
Hunters:	1	1	1
Hunter Success:	100%	0%	100%
Active Licenses:	1	1	1
Active License Success	100%	0%	100%
Recreation Days:	5	9	5
Days Per Animal:	5	0	5
Males per 100 Females:	60	50	
Juveniles per 100 Females	35	48	

Trend Based Objective (± 20%)	65 (52 - 78)
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or (-) objective:	22%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	5

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	JCR Year	Proposed
Females ≥ 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA%	NA%
Total:	NA%	NA%
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA%	NA%



2025 HUNTING SEASON
DARBY MOUNTAIN HERD UNIT - BHS121

Hunt Area	Type	Archery Dates		Season Dates		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes	Opens	Closes		
24	1	Aug.15	Aug.31	Sep. 1	Oct.31	1	Any ram (1 resident)

2024 Hunter Satisfaction: NA

2025 Management Summary

1.) Hunting Season Evaluation: The 2025 bighorn sheep hunting season will be open for the tenth consecutive year in the Darby herd. The number of licenses issued in 2025 will be one (1) license issued to a resident hunter, likely resulting in the harvest of an adult ram. The post-hunt 2025 population trend count is projected at approximately 65 sheep.

2.) Management Objective Review: The 3-year trend based objective of 65 sheep was approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in 2016, and was last reviewed in 2021 when no changes were recommended. The next objective review will be in 2026.

3.) Herd Unit Evaluation: A 2024 post-hunt aerial survey was flown on March 1, 2025 to document sheep on winter ranges prior to dispersal to summer ranges. During that survey a total of 79 sheep were observed in hunt area 24. The number, location, and age/sex of the sheep are provided in Table 1. A sufficient number of rams were observed to justify the continued issuance of one (1) license for any ram in the 2025 hunting season.

Table 1. Trend count summary- Darby Mountain bighorn sheep herd, March, 2025.

Location:	Adult Rams	Yearling Rams	Ewes	Lambs	Total
Airport	5	2	1	1	9
S. Middle Piney	4	0	0	0	4
North Fish Cr	0	0	5	3	8
North Darby Mtn	2	1	0	0	3
N. /Mid Fish Cr Mtn	1	0	12	4	17
Box Canyon	0	0	2	2	4
Box Canyon/ Lunch Cr	0	0	12	5	17
Roaring Fork	0	0	3	2	5
Martin Cr	0	0	5	2	7
Triple Peak	2	0	0	0	2
N. Piney Mdw	3	0	0	0	3
Total	17	3	40	19	79

In 2024, the single licensed hunter in the Darby sheep herd did not harvest a ram. This is the first year since the hunting season was re-opened in 2016, after being closed since 2013, that at least one ram was not harvested in hunt area 24. During the period from 2016–2023, all hunter harvested rams have been at least 7.5 years old.

2024 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Elk
HERD: EL106 - PINEY
HUNT AREAS: 86, 92, 94

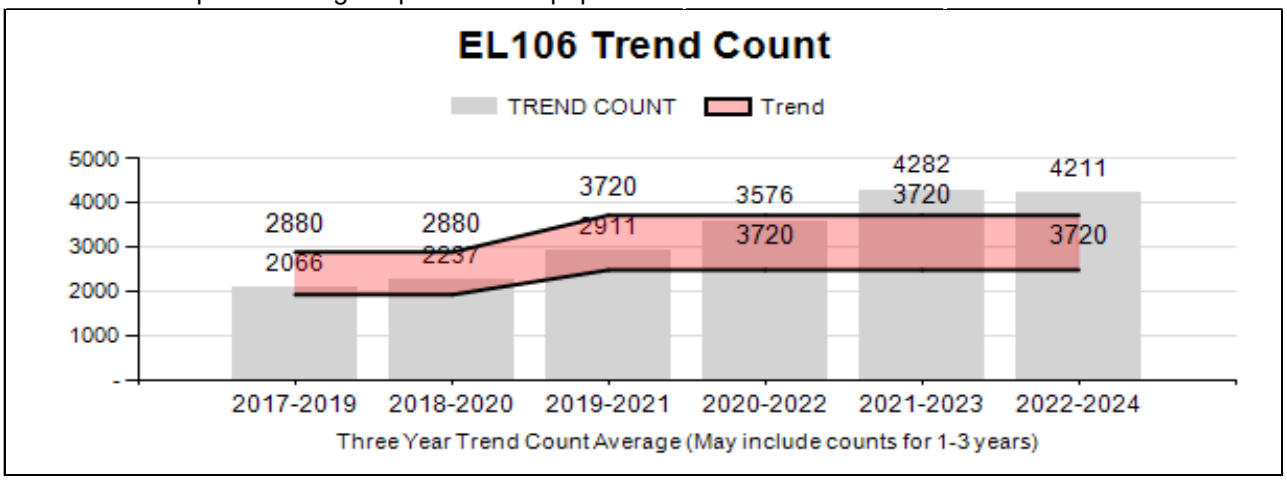
PERIOD: 6/1/2024 - 5/31/2025
PREPARED BY: GARY FRALICK

	2019 - 2023 Average	2024	2025 Proposed
Trend Count:	3,482	3,957	3,500
Harvest:	858	1,431	1,700
Hunters:	2,620	3,390	3,581
Hunter Success:	33%	42%	47 %
Active Licenses:	2,870	4,019	3,581
Active License Success	30%	36%	47 %
Recreation Days:	22,244	33,710	35,690
Days Per Animal:	25.9	23.6	21.0
Males per 100 Females:	30	27	
Juveniles per 100 Females	34	26	

Trend Based Objective (± 20%)	3,100 (2480 - 3720)
Management Strategy:	Recreational
Percent population is above (+) or (-) objective:	28%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	4

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	JCR Year	Proposed
Females ≥ 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA%	NA%
Total:	NA%	NA%
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA%	NA%



2025 HUNTING SEASONS
PINEY ELK HERD UNIT (EL106)

Hunt Area	Type	Archery Dates Opens	Archery Dates Closes	Season Dates Opens	Season Dates Closes	Quota	Limitations
86	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep.25	Sep.26	Oct.31		Any elk
86	Gen			Nov. 1	Nov.20		Antlerless elk
86	6	Sep. 1	Sep.25	Sep.26	Nov.30	150	Cow or calf
92	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep.30	Oct.15	Oct. 31		Any elk
92	Gen			Nov. 1	Nov.20		Antlerless elk
92	6	Sep. 1	Sep.30	Oct. 1	Nov.30	500	Cow or calf
92	6			Dec. 1	Jan. 31		Cow or calf valid north of Wyoming Highway 354 and Sublette County Road 112, east of Sublette County Road 115, and south of South Beaver Creek
94	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep.30	Oct.15	Oct. 31		Any elk
94	Gen			Nov. 1	Nov.20		Antlerless elk
94	6	Sep. 1	Sep.30	Oct. 1	Nov.30	500	Cow or calf
94	7	Sep. 1	Sep.30	Nov. 1	Dec.10	150	Cow or calf valid north of Middle Piney Creek
94	7			Dec.11	Jan. 31		Cow or calf valid on private land north of Middle Piney Creek

2025 Region W Nonresident quota: 2,775

2024 Hunter Satisfaction: 63% Satisfied, 23% Neutral, 13% Dissatisfied

2025 Management Summary

Hunting Season Evaluation
The Hoback elk herd was dissolved in 2021 and the portion of hunt area 87 south of highway 189/191, including the McNeel feedground, were incorporated into hunt area 92 and the Piney elk herd. Liberal elk hunting opportunities are again warranted in 2025 because elk numbers in the Piney herd remain above the population trend objective of 3,100 elk, with 3,957 counted on feedgrounds and native winter ranges during February, 2025. Hunting opportunity will continue to emphasize the harvest of antlerless elk to affect the desired, decreasing trend in elk counted over the last two years. Consequently, general license hunting for antlerless elk into November, and the liberal issuance of type 6 and 7 cow/calf only licenses have been the management standard throughout the herd unit. During 2021-2024, the number of elk counted during postseason trend counts averaged 4,201 elk (Appendix A).

Bull cow ratios continue to hover above the recreational management minimum threshold of 20 bulls:100 cows. In 2023, 30 bulls:100 cows were observed, while during the current management year 27 bulls:100 were recorded. The cow:calf ratios have been observed at levels that consistently allow this population to perform at or above the population trend objective. In 2023, 24 calves:100 cows were observed, while in 2024 the proportion of calves in the population increased to 26 calves:100 cows (Appendix A).

Total estimated harvest within the Piney herd exhibited a slight increase during the last two years, likely accounting for the fewer number of elk counted in 2024, and providing evidence that liberal seasons are affecting the desired population decline. The number of elk harvested during the period from 2019-2023 has averaged 858 elk, and is commensurate with the annual population dynamic and subsequent harvest. In 2023, 1,157 elk were harvested, while in 2024, 1,431 elk were estimated to have been harvested.

The emphasis to harvest adult female elk in hunt area 94 will continue for the 18th consecutive year by opening the limited quota antlerless elk hunting season on October 1 and continuing general license and limited quota hunting opportunity into November. The general license antlerless elk hunting season will close on November 20, similar to previous years. This season structure will allow general license hunters to maximize the November segment of the hunt to harvest elk that have moved to lower, more accessible areas. The number of type 6 licenses will remain at 500 licenses and close on November 30 in an effort to harvest elk during the Thanksgiving holiday. The type 7 season will close on December 10 to all lands north of Middle Piney Creek, converting to private lands only north of the creek through the end of January to address damage and elk/cattle co-mingling issues.

In hunt area 86, the effort to harvest antlerless elk in November with general license hunting will continue in 2025 because of the high number of elk counted during the post-hunt 2024 trend count. The number of days for the general license antlerless elk portion of the November hunting season will close on November 20. In addition, the number of type 6 limited quota cow or calf licenses will remain at 150 licenses in an effort to continue to affect a desired population decrease on the McNeel feedground. The type 6 hunting season will run September 26 through November 20. In hunt area 92, the general license antlerless elk portion of the November hunting season will align with hunt area 94, running November 1 – November 20. The number of limited quota type 6 cow calf only licenses will be 500 licenses in an effort to continue to affect the desired decrease in the Piney herd elk population.

Management Objective Review

Upon the dissolution of the Hoback elk herd unit in 2021, hunt area 92 now encompasses portions of the former hunt area 87 south of U.S. Highway 189/191. After public and federal agency personnel review, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in July of 2022 approved adding 700 elk from the former Hoback elk herd (old objective of 1,100 elk) to the Piney herd, and the remaining 400 elk were absorbed into the Upper Green herd. Thus, the new Piney elk herd trend-based objective is 3,100 elk, and will next be reviewed in 2027.

Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring and Management

CWD has been documented in elk in hunt area 92, and CWD positive mule deer have been identified within the Piney elk herd unit boundary. Because the Piney herd is on the western edge of CWD in Wyoming, opportunistic sampling of hunter-harvested and targeted (i.e., apparently sick and euthanized) elk occurs annually. Prevalence estimates and sample sizes are presented in Table 1. Robust sampling over the last 5-years has resulted in 245 samples collected and tested. As a result of this robust sampling regime, managers have a more confident and precise estimate of CWD prevalence (0.4% prevalence). Since 2020, an average of 5% of all harvested adult elk were sampled.

Table 1. CWD prevalence for hunter-harvested elk in the Piney herd, 2020-2024

Years	Percent CWD-Positive and sample size (n) *Hunter Harvest Only*	Percent of Harvested Adult Elk Sampled
	All Adult Elk (CI = 95%)	
2020	0.0% (n=21)	3
2021	0.0% (n=39)	6
2022	0.0% (n=37)	4
2023	1.3%, n=1 (n=77)	7
2024	0.0% (n=71)	5
2020-2024	0.4% (n=245)	5

Appendix A. Piney Elk Herd, posthunt herd composition data, 2020-2024.

							Ratio:100 Females			
2020	Adult Males	Yrlng Males	Total Males	Cows	Calves (Unc Elk)	Total	Adult Males	Yrlng Males	Total Males	Calves
92 JFG	31	21	52	215	78	345				
92 FFG	12	7	19	21	14(35)	89				
92 NR	0	0	0	4	0(50)	54				
94 FFG	21	36	57	263	119	439				
94 NPFG	0	0	0	0	0	0				
94 BCFG	24	25	49	489	62	600				
94 NR	86	5	91	1	1 (385)	478				
TOTAL	174	94	268	993	274(470)	2005	17	9	27	28
2021										
86 McFG	18	52	70	601	319	990				
86 NR	0	0	0	0	0	0				
92 JFG	47	26	73	337	61	471				
92 FFG	77	36	113	177	91(241)	622				
92 NR	27	3	30	1	0	31				
94 FFG	4	37	41	NS	NS(483)	524				
94 NPFG	0	0	0	0	0	0				
94 BCFG	85	118	203	782	247 (10)	1242				
94 NR	0	0	0	0	(290)	290				
TOTAL	258	272	530	1898	718(1024)	4170	14	14	28	38
2022										
86 McFG	0	0	0	0	0(1050)	1050				
86 NR	0	0	0	0	0	0				
92 JFG	28	29	57	344	104	505				
92 FFG	100	76	176	209	72	457				
92 NR	30	3	33	11	0	44				
94 FFG	32	27	59	253	95	407				
94 NPFG	0	0	0	0	0	0				
94 BCFG	125	115	240	826	341	1407				
94 NR	36	1	37	3	1(643)	684				
TOTAL	351	251	602	1646	613 (1693)	4554	21	15	36	37
2023										
86 McFG	5	47	52	810	127	989				
86 NR	5	8	13	29	7	49				
92 JFG	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS (450)	450				
92 FFG	137	33	170	291	93	554				
92 NR	05	0	0	0	0	0				
94 FFG	13	31	44	265	112	421				
94 NPFG	0	0	0	0	0	0				
94 BCFG	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS (1200)	1200				
94 NR	124	19	143	0	0 (317)	460				
TOTAL	284	138	422	1395	339 (1967)	4123	20	10	30	24
2024										
86 McFG	30	35	65	689	118	872				
86 NR	7	2	9	17	11 (23)	60				
92 JFG	0	0	0	0	0	0				
92 FFG	149	61	210	330	103	643				
92 NR	15	0	15	3	0 (28)	46				
94 FFG	8	24	32	293	86	411				
94 NPFG	0	0	0	0	0	0				
94 BCFG	106	80	186	982	283	1451				
94 NR	105	18	123	16	10 (325)	474				
TOTAL	420	220	640	2330	611 (376)	3957	18	9	27	26

DISEASE MANAGEMENT (E106) – 2025

A total of 86 retro-pharyngeal lymph nodes were collected from deceased elk for chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling within the Big Piney elk herd unit (BPEH; E106) from the beginning of hunting season through the end of feeding season, with 79 being from hunter harvest. Although one hunter-harvested elk previously tested positive for CWD in Hunt Area (HA) 92 during the 2023 hunting season, no elk within the herd unit have tested positive since.

Ear tags are permanently attached to all elk captured and released as part of brucellosis surveillance and related research initiatives. These tags are later retrieved when animals are harvested or carcasses are recovered, providing valuable insights into elk distribution, dispersal patterns, and potential disease transmission pathways within elk populations. Ear tags from elk initially captured at feedgrounds within the BPEH were recovered exclusively from elk harvested inside the herd unit boundaries. No ear tags from elk originally captured outside the herd unit were recovered from elk harvested within the BPEH.

Globalstar satellite GPS collars are routinely deployed to facilitate efficient monitoring of elk populations throughout the brucellosis transmission season. There are currently 23 collars "on-air" in the herd unit. The management goal is to maintain at least five active collars per feedground at all times. These collars record elk locations at two-hour intervals for up to four years, enabling detailed assessment of elk movements, identification of high-risk areas for elk-to-cattle brucellosis transmission, and evaluation of elk responses to modifications in feeding strategies intended to reduce disease transmission. Data from GPS collars continually inform and refine spatial risk models and management practices.

A total of 11 elk were handled at feedgrounds this season within E106 with all 11 adult females sampled for exposure to *Brucella abortus*, the bacteria responsible for causing brucellosis. Six of the samples tested positive (Table 1). The sample size was not large enough to estimate seroprevalence in the herd unit, as captures were primarily to deploy GPS collars.

Table 1. Winter 2024-25 Big Piney Elk Herd Unit Capture Summary

Feedground	# GPS collars deployed	# Captured	# Tested	# Positive	Seroprevalence
Franz	2	2	2	0	0%
McNeel	4	4	4	4	100%
Jewett	0	0	0	0	N/A
North Piney	0	0	0	0	N/A
Bench Corral	3	3	3	1	33%
Finnegan	2	2	2	1	50%
Totals =	**11**	**11**	**11**	**6**	**55%**

Winter conditions during 2024-25 were moderate, and elk redistribution efforts proceeded as usual. Across 11 flight missions totaling 746 minutes in the Pinedale Region, a drone was utilized seven times within this herd unit for a total flight duration of 405 minutes. The efforts successfully redistributed elk away from nearby private cattle operations in an effort to reduce the risk of elk-cattle commingling and potential brucellosis transmission.

Numerous game-proof fencing materials, purchased through cooperative funding agreements with USDA APHIS, have been distributed across the BPEH over the past several decades. Once installed, stackyards serve to eliminate food rewards for elk in areas of elevated brucellosis transmission risk, thereby reducing elk presence and minimizing the potential for elk-cattle commingling. Three of the seven new stackyards provided to cattle producers in western Wyoming in 2024 were constructed within this herd unit.

Franz Feedground
On March 12, two adult female elk were chemically immobilized at the Franz feedground to deploy two GPS collars. Neither elk tested positive for exposure to *B. abortus* (Table 1); however, the small sample size is insufficient to accurately estimate population seroprevalence. An adult female elk was found dead on February 4, and another adult female was lethally removed on February 6 due to symptoms consisted with CWD; both animals tested negative for CWD. Currently, six satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground, including collars deployed in previous years.

McNeel Feedground
On March 3, four adult female elk were chemically immobilized at the McNeel feedground to deploy four GPS collars. All four elk tested positive for exposure to *B. abortus* (Table 1); however, the sample size is insufficient to accurately estimate population seroprevalence. On February 12, a young bull elk exhibiting symptoms consistent with CWD was lethally removed; however, subsequent testing did not detect CWD. On March 5, an adult female elk originally captured at the Dell Creek feedground, where CWD-related mortality was relatively high this season, was lethally removed to mitigate disease transmission risks within the densely concentrated elk population. Additionally, an adult female elk was found dead on March 29, and a juvenile elk was found dead on April 4 at the feedground; neither tested positive for CWD. Currently, six satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground.

Jewett Feedground
No elk were captured at the Jewett feedground during winter 2024-25. Typically one of the longer-duration feedgrounds due to its higher precipitation zone, Jewett experienced early-season elk dispersal influenced by wolf activity and mild weather conditions. Elk initially occupied nearby BLM-managed lands, but as winter conditions intensified, most of the elk population was relocated to the Bench Corral feedground, due to its closer proximity, to prevent commingling with cattle. The elk remained at Bench Corral for the remainder of the feeding season. Currently, two satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground from deployments in previous years.

North Piney Feedground
North Piney is considered a “staging area” as opposed to a traditional feedground. Up to 400 elk are typically fed for less than a month, then migrate to the Bench Corral feedground, usually prior to January 1.

Bench Corral Feedground
On February 26, three adult female elk were chemically immobilized at the Bench Corral feedground to deploy three GPS collars. One elk tested positive for exposure to *B. abortus* (Table 1); however, the small sample size is insufficient to accurately estimate population seroprevalence. An adult female elk was found dead on January 27, and a juvenile male elk was found dead on February 17; neither tested positive for CWD. Currently, seven satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground, including those deployed in previous years.

Finnegan Feedground
On March 6, two adult female elk were chemically immobilized at the Finnegan feedground to deploy two GPS collars. One elk tested positive for exposure to *B. abortus* (Table 1); however, the small sample size is insufficient to accurately estimate population seroprevalence. On March 20, an adult female elk was found dead on the feedground; CWD was not detected. Currently, two satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground.

2024 - JCR Evaluation Form

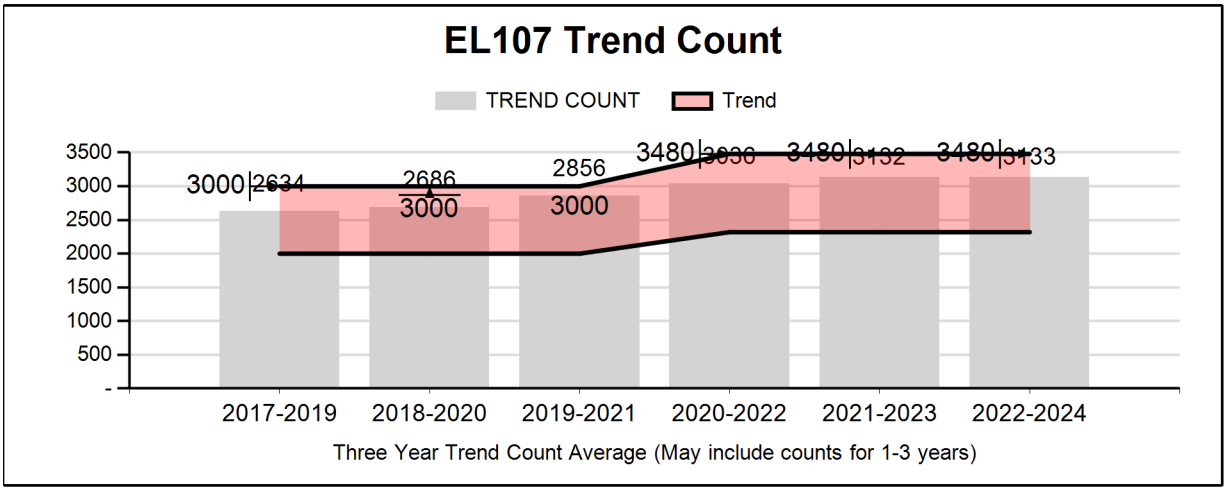
SPECIES: Elk
PERIOD: 6/1/2024 - 5/31/2025
HERD: EL107 - UPPER GREEN RIVER
HUNT AREAS: 87, 93, 95-96
PREPARED BY: DEAN CLAUSE

	2019 - 2023 Average	2024	2025 Proposed
Trend Count:	2,988	3,024	2,900
Harvest:	477	676	700
Hunters:	1,409	1,797	1,900
Hunter Success:	34%	38%	37 %
Active Licenses:	1,556	2,093	2,100
Active License Success	31%	32%	33 %
Recreation Days:	12,592	17,596	18,000
Days Per Animal:	26.4	26.0	25.7
Males per 100 Females:	34	30	
Juveniles per 100 Females	33	29	

Trend Based Objective (± 20%)	2,900 (2320 - 3480)
Management Strategy:	Recreational
Percent population is above (+) or (-) objective:	4%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	0

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	JCR Year	Proposed
Females ≥ 1 year old:	0%	0%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	0%	0%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	0%	0%



2025 Hunting Seasons
Upper Green River (EL107)

Hunt Area	Type	Special Archery Dates		Regular Season Dates		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes	Opens	Closes		
87	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 15	Oct. 31		Any elk
87	Gen			Nov. 1	Nov. 20		Antlerless elk
87	1			Dec. 1	Jan. 31	10	Antlered elk valid within the interior of the Dell Creek Loop Road (Forest Road 30580 and Sublette County Road 23-114)
87	6			Dec. 1	Jan. 31	50	Cow or calf valid south and east of Dell Creek, and west of North Fork Fisherman Creek
87	7	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 15	Nov. 20	150	Cow or calf; also valid in that portion of Area 84 south and east of Shoal Creek
93	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	200	Any elk
93	1			Nov. 1	Nov. 30		Antlerless elk
93	6	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	275	Cow or calf
93	8			Oct. 1	Nov. 30	Unlimited	Cow or calf valid on private land
95	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 15	Nov. 5	225	Any elk
95	2	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Nov. 5	30	Any elk valid within the Green River Drainage upstream from the outlet of Lower Green River Lake, including that portion east and south of Mill Creek
95	4	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 15	Nov. 5	150	Antlerless elk

Hunt Area	Type	Special Archery Dates		Regular Season Dates		Quota	Limitations
95	5	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Nov. 5	25	Antlerless elk valid within the Green River Drainage upstream from the outlet of Lower Green River Lake, including that portion east and south of Mill Creek
95	6	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 15	Nov. 5	25	Cow or calf
96	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 15	Oct. 31		Any elk
96	Gen			Nov. 1	Nov. 20		Antlerless elk
96	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	275	Any elk
96	1			Nov. 1	Nov. 30		Antlerless elk
96	4	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	150	Antlerless elk
96	6	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	150	Cow or calf
96	8			Dec. 1	Jan. 31	Unlimited	Cow or calf valid on private land west of the elk fence and south of the New Fork Lake Road

2025 Region W Nonresident quota: 2,775

2024 Hunter Satisfaction: 54% Satisfied, 27% Neutral, 19% Dissatisfied

2025 Management Summary

Hunting Season Evaluation

Hunting seasons in the past years have remained similar and successful in maintaining this herd unit within management goals. As with most hunt areas in western Wyoming, weather drives harvest trends, especially with antlerless elk later in the hunting season. Although hunter numbers, harvest and success typically don't reflect much annual variation for the Upper Green elk herd as a whole, each hunt area is unique, resulting in different hunting strategies and seasons. This herd is managed as a "recreational herd" for a bull:100 cow ratio of 15-29 and has remained above this objective in recent years. The addition of hunt area 87 to the Upper Green River herd unit occurred in 2022 upon the elimination of the Hoback elk herd (EL104).

The proposed 2025 hunting season will remain very similar to 2024 in providing liberal opportunities for both antlered and antlerless harvest within this herd by using a combination

of general and limited quota licensed hunters. Hunt area 87 (Raspberry Ridge), new to this herd in 2022, will have similar season structures as in the past but allowing some additional harvest opportunities near the Dell Creek feedground by allowing 87-7 licenses to also be valid in a small portion of hunt area 84 south and east of Shoal Creek. A late season antlered hunt, 87 type 1 (10 licenses) along with 87-6 licenses for antlerless elk will be maintained to address annual private land hay damage in a small portion of the area. Hunt area 93 will be similar to past years, except 93 type 8 licenses (unlimited in number) will be valid on private land to encourage harvest, reduce damage and encourage re-distribution where large numbers of elk congregate on private lands. Hunt area 95 will offer the same seasons and licenses for limited quota hunters as in 2024. In hunt area 96, the combination of general and limited quota seasons and licenses will remain similar, except 96 type 8 licenses (unlimited in number) will be valid on private land in a portion of the area to address damage and elk/cattle co-mingling issues.

Managers believe a high proportion of elk in this herd typically attend feedgrounds during most winters and are counted during big game surveys. Large carnivores (wolves and grizzly bears) have likely contributed to reduced hunter participation in the northern portion of this herd unit (hunt area 95), and are likely influencing elk productivity and survival. Lack of public access on private lands in hunt area 93 limits harvest and compromises female harvest goals within this herd. Additionally, a large portion of occupied elk habitat in hunt area 96 overlaps the Bridger Wilderness, limiting hunter accessibility and resulting in poor harvest rates during years with mild fall conditions when elk remain at higher elevations. Hunt area 87 is predominately national forest with good overall access, although persistent damage and elk/cattle co-mingling during the winter months remains a problem on some private lands.

Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring & Management

Due to a lack of wild game processors, sample collections have been challenging and rely mainly on field checked animals. From 2020- 2024, 189 CWD samples have been collected/tested from adult, hunter-harvested elk with no positive animals for a 0.0% prevalence. However, during the winter of 2024-25, several elk that died on the Dell Creek feedground in hunt area 87 were positive for CWD, and a bull that died on Black Butte feedground in hunt area 93 was also positive. This bull was tagged at Dell Creek feedground during the 2023-24 winter.

Table 1. CWD prevalence for hunter-harvested elk in the Upper Green River Herd, 2020-2024.

Years	Percent CWD-Positive and sample size (n) *Hunter Harvest Only*	Percent of Harvested Adult Elk Sampled
	All Adult Elk (CI = 95%)	
2020	0.0% (n=25)	3
2021	0.0% (n=24)	6
2022	0.0% (n=49)	4
2023	0.0% (n=33)	7
2024	0.0% (n=58)	5
2020-2024	0.0% (n=189)	5

Population and Trend Evaluation

Since 2012 a mid-winter trend count has been utilized to manage this herd instead of hand-derived population model estimates. This is a 'leaky' herd unit and as a result, a functional model has never been developed. The mid-winter trend objective for this herd is 2,900 elk (+/- 20%) for a range of 2,320 to 3,480 elk. The postseason 2024 winter trend count was 3,024 elk observed on Department-operated feedgrounds and native winter ranges (Appendix 1). The 3-year average (2022-2024) winter trend count is 3,133 elk, within the management objective. February 2025 snow conditions were above average resulting in good counting conditions, compared to mild winter conditions during the 2023-24 winter, when a slightly lower number of animals were counted than in recent years. Winter and habitat conditions, wolf activity and timing of classification surveys have resulted in fluctuating trend count data on all four feedgrounds and native winter ranges in past years.

Appendix 1.

2019 - 2024 Postseason Classification Summary

for Elk Herd EL107 - UPPER GREEN RIVER

		MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES				Males to 100 Females				Young to		
Year	Post Pop	Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Yling	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2019	0	172	386	558	20%	1,658	58%	629	22%	2,845	489	10	23	34	± 0	38	± 0	28
2020	0	232	340	572	21%	1,579	58%	550	20%	2,701	456	15	22	36	± 0	35	± 0	26
2021	0	274	452	726	20%	2,240	62%	670	18%	3,636	446	12	20	32	± 0	30	± 0	23
2022	0	226	505	731	22%	1,986	59%	669	20%	3,386	428	11	25	37	± 0	34	± 0	25
2023	0	188	422	610	20%	1,838	61%	541	18%	2,989	406	10	23	33	± 0	29	± 0	22
2024	0	144	423	567	19%	1,880	63%	546	18%	2,993	361	8	22	30	± 0	29	± 0	22

DISEASE MANAGEMENT (E107) – 2025

A total of 106 retro-pharyngeal lymph nodes were collected from deceased elk for chronic wasting disease (CWD) sampling within the Upper Green River elk herd unit (UGREH; E107) from the beginning of hunting season through the end of feeding season, with 94 samples being from hunter harvested elk. Though all hunter samples were negative for CWD, the disease was detected in E107 elk for the first in two different hunt areas, 87 and 93 (Dell Creek = HA87 and Black Butte = HA93). E107 is currently a priority herd with the goal of collecting 200 samples from hunter-harvested adult elk over three consecutive years, and was just 24 samples shy of reaching this goal.

Ear tags are permanently attached to all elk captured and released as part of brucellosis surveillance and related research initiatives. These tags are later retrieved when animals are harvested or carcasses are recovered, providing valuable insights into elk distribution, dispersal patterns, and potential disease transmission pathways within elk populations. Ear tags from elk initially captured at feedgrounds within the UGREH were recovered exclusively from elk harvested inside the herd unit boundaries. No ear tags from elk originally captured outside the herd unit were recovered from elk harvested within the UGREH.

Globalstar satellite GPS collars are routinely deployed to facilitate efficient monitoring of elk populations throughout the brucellosis transmission season. There are currently 30 collars "on-air" in the herd unit. The management goal is to maintain at least five active collars per feedground at all times. These collars record elk locations at two-hour intervals for up to four years, enabling detailed assessment of elk movements, identification of high-risk areas for elk-to-cattle brucellosis transmission, and evaluation of elk responses to modifications in feeding strategies intended to reduce disease transmission. Data from GPS collars continually inform and refine spatial risk models and management practices.

A total of 12 elk were handled at feedgrounds this season within E107 with all 12 adult females sampled for exposure to *Brucella abortus*, the bacteria responsible for causing brucellosis. Five of the samples tested positive (Table 1). The sample size was not large enough to estimate seroprevalence in the herd unit, as captures were primarily to deploy GPS collars.

Table 1. Winter 2024-25 Upper Green River Elk Herd Unit Capture Summary

Feedground	# GPS collars deployed	# Captured	# Tested	# Positive	Seroprevalence
Soda Lake	3	3	3	1	33%
Black Butte	7	7	7	3	43%
Green River Lakes	2	2	2	1	50%
Dell Creek	0	0	0	0	N/A
Totals =	**12**	**12**	**12**	**5**	**42%**

Winter conditions during 2024-25 were moderate, and elk redistribution efforts proceeded as usual. Across 11 flight missions totaling 746 minutes in the Pinedale Region, a drone was utilized three times within this herd unit for a total flight duration of 316 minutes. Two of those efforts successfully redistributed elk away from nearby private cattle operations in an effort to reduce the risk of elk-cattle commingling and potential brucellosis transmission, and a third targeted spring dispersal of elk immediately post feeding to minimize disease transmission among elk at the Green River Lakes feedground.

Numerous game-proof fencing materials, purchased through cooperative funding agreements with USDA APHIS, have been distributed across the UGREH over the past several decades. Once installed, stackyards serve to eliminate food rewards for elk in areas of elevated brucellosis transmission risk, thereby reducing elk presence and minimizing the potential for elk-cattle commingling. Two of the seven new stackyards provided to cattle producers in western Wyoming in 2024 were constructed within this herd unit.

Soda Lake Feedground
On February 25, three adult female elk were chemically immobilized at the Soda Lake feedground to deploy three GPS collars. One elk tested positive for exposure to *B. abortus* (Table 1); however, the small sample size is insufficient to accurately estimate population seroprevalence. An adult male elk was found dead on January 30 and tested negative for CWD. Currently, five satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground.

Black Butte Feedground
On March 21 and March 13, a total of seven adult female elk were chemically immobilized at the Black Butte feedground to deploy seven GPS collars. Three elk tested positive for exposure to *B. abortus* (Table 1); however, the small sample size is insufficient to accurately estimate population seroprevalence. Currently, seven satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground.

On February 19, an adult female elk was found dead and tested positive for CWD. This marked the first documented case at the feedground and within the hunt area. The emaciated elk had ear tags indicating it had been previously captured at the Dell Creek feedground. During elk captures on the Black Butte feedground on March 13, another adult female elk, also originally captured at Dell Creek where CWD-related mortality was relatively high this season, was lethally removed to mitigate disease transmission risks in the densely concentrated population; however, this elk tested negative for CWD. An additional adult female elk was found dead on March 18 and also tested negative for the disease.

Green River Lakes Feedground
On February 20, two adult female elk were captured using chemical immobilization at the Green River Lakes feedground in order to deploy two GPS collars. One tested positive for brucellosis (Table 1); however, the small sample size is insufficient to accurately estimate population seroprevalence. There are currently six satellite collars deployed on elk that winter at this feedground.

Dell Creek Feedground
No elk were captured at the Dell Creek feedground during winter 2024-25. Given that the brucellosis management strategy for Dell Creek feedground focuses on maintaining relatively long feeding seasons to maximize controlled separation between elk and nearby cattle herds, the prevalence of *B. abortus* on the feedground is expected to remain on the higher end of the spectrum.

Seven elk mortalities were documented at the Dell Creek feedground during the winter feeding season, with three additional carcasses detected after feeding operations concluded. Of the ten total known mortalities, seven were tested for CWD, including one found post-feeding, and six tested positive. The first mortality was recorded on January 23, involving an adult female elk fitted with a satellite GPS collar. This case represented the first confirmed instance of CWD at the feedground, within the hunt area, and in the herd unit. CWD appears to be well established in this feedground population.

There are currently 12 remaining satellite collars on elk from captures at this feedground in previous years.

2024 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Elk
HERD: EL108 - PINEDALE
HUNT AREAS: 97-98

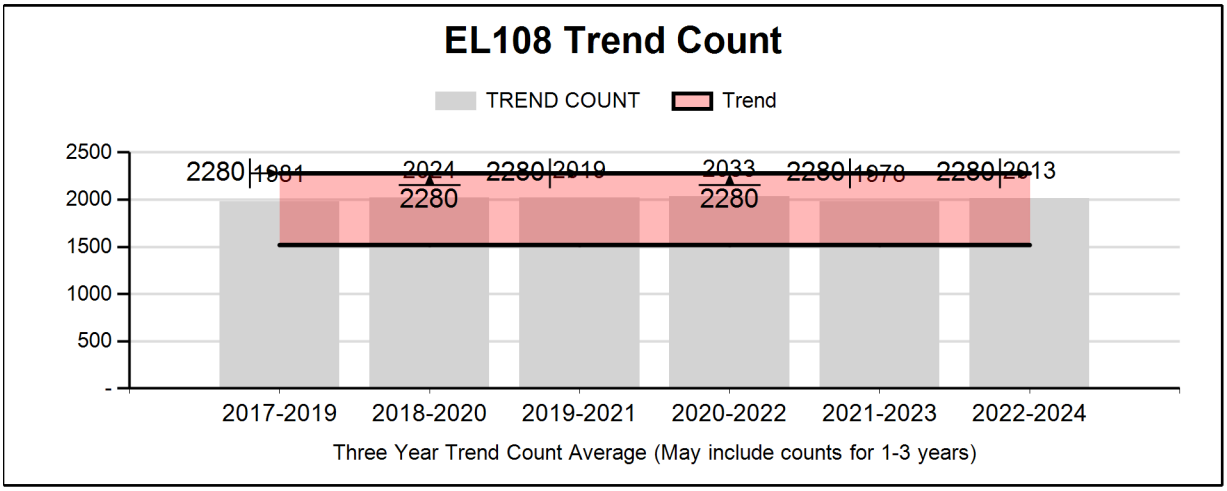
PERIOD: 6/1/2024 - 5/31/2025
PREPARED BY: DEAN CLAUSE

	2019 - 2023 Average	2024	2025 Proposed
Trend Count:	2,011	2,042	1,900
Harvest:	448	660	650
Hunters:	1,346	1,355	1,400
Hunter Success:	33%	49%	46%
Active Licenses:	1,464	1,568	1,600
Active License Success	31%	42%	41 %
Recreation Days:	10,443	12,207	12,300
Days Per Animal:	23.3	18.5	18.9
Males per 100 Females:	26	31	
Juveniles per 100 Females	32	21	

Trend Based Objective (± 20%)	1,900 (1520 - 2280)
Management Strategy:	Recreational
Percent population is above (+) or (-) objective:	7%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	0

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	JCR Year	Proposed
Females ≥ 1 year old:	0%	0%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	0%	0%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	0%	0%



2025 HUNTING SEASONS
Pinedale Elk (EL108)

Hunt Area	Type	Special Archery Dates		Regular Season Dates		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes	Opens	Closes		
97	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Oct. 1	Oct. 15		Any elk
97	Gen			Oct. 16	Nov. 20		Antlerless elk
97	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Oct. 31	250	Any elk
97	1			Nov. 1	Nov. 30		Antlerless elk
97	6	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Nov. 30	200	Cow or calf
98	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Oct. 1	Oct. 15		Any elk
98	Gen			Oct. 16	Nov. 20		Antlerless elk
98	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Oct. 31	350	Any elk
98	1			Nov. 1	Nov. 30		Antlerless elk
98	1			Dec. 1	Jan. 31		Antlerless elk valid between Scab Creek and the East Fork River
98	4	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Nov. 30	125	Antlerless elk
98	4			Dec. 1	Jan. 31		Antlerless elk valid between Scab Creek and the East Fork River
98	6	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Nov. 30	300	Cow or calf
98	6			Dec. 1	Jan. 31		Cow or calf valid between Scab Creek and the East Fork River
98	8			Nov. 1	Nov. 30	Unlimited	Cow or calf valid on private land

2025 Region W Nonresident quota: 2,775

2024 Hunter Satisfaction: 63% Satisfied, 26% Neutral, 11% Dissatisfied

2025 Management Summary

Hunting Season Evaluation
Harvest strategies using a combination of limited quota and general licensed hunters combined with lengthy seasons have been successful in maintaining this herd unit within management goals. Snow accumulation at higher elevations during the hunting seasons greatly influences antlerless harvest in this herd, and hunter success is reflectively variable. Bull harvest (type 1 licenses) success is typically higher due to seasons opening early (Sept. 20) during the end of the rut. Mild fall weather conditions during 2021 resulted in low hunter success, increased hunter effort (days/harvest), and poor female harvest. Conversely, 2022 seasons had much better success

and harvest due to more conducive fall hunting conditions (i.e., more snow). Although mild conditions persisted throughout most of the 2023 and 2024 seasons, hunting success increased with a record estimated harvest of 660 total elk in this herd unit during 2024. Increased elk harvest during the past three years coincides with liberalization in seasons since 2021.

The proposed 2024 hunting seasons remain similar to past years for this herd unit, using a combination of general and limited quota licensed hunters for both hunt areas 97 and 98. Limited quota license holders will be provided antlerless opportunities to Nov. 30 for the fourth consecutive year. A slight increase of 25 Type 1 licenses in hunt area 97 will provide additional bull harvest opportunities as a result of increased bull ratios in the hunt area. Additional opportunities will be provided for general licensed hunters for antlerless elk after the any elk season closes on October 15, as in past years. A late season hunt will remain in hunt area 98 to keep elk out of stored hay and reduce co-mingling with livestock on private lands. Unlimited type 8 licenses in hunt area 98 will be added to provide further harvest opportunities and damage suppression actions on private lands where landowners allow access.

Managers believe a high proportion of elk in this herd typically attend feedgrounds during most winters. Some interchange (~10%) of elk has been documented between the Pinedale herd and the adjacent South Wind River herd to the southeast via GPS collars and ear tags. More than half of the U.S. Forest Service lands in this herd are designated as Wilderness (Bridger Wilderness) where access is limited to foot or horseback travel. The remaining Forest Service lands outside Wilderness have moderate vehicle and trail access. Lack of public access on private lands in hunt area 98 along Scab and Silver Creeks provides a refuge for elk and limits harvest opportunities. Years with persistent deep snow at higher elevations results in elk distributing to lower elevations where access is easier for hunters, resulting in increased harvest. Weather is a very influential factor on harvest rates, especially for antlerless elk, in this herd unit.

Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring & Management

Due to somewhat limited Forest Service access, a large amount of Wilderness within the national forest, and low harvest due to mild conditions, sample collections have been challenging. During the five years (2020-2024), 249 CWD samples were collected/tested with 2 positive animals for a 1.3% prevalence. Additionally, in December of 2024, a GPS-collared cow elk died on the Scab Creek feedground in hunt area 98 and subsequently tested positive for CWD, the first elk documented to have died from CWD on a feedground.

Table 1. CWD prevalence for hunter-harvested elk in the Pinedale herd, 2020-2024

Years	Percent CWD-Positive and sample size (n) *Hunter Harvest Only*	Percent of Harvested Adult Elk Sampled
	All Adult Elk (CI = 95%)	
2020	0.0% (n=69)	7
2021	1.6%, 1, (n=64)	6
2022	2.7%, 1, (n=37)	8
2023	0.0% (n=41)	9
2024	0.0% (n=38)	7
2020-2024	0.3%, 2, (n=627)	9

Population and Trend Evaluation

The mid-winter trend count objective for the Pinedale elk herd is 1,900 elk, with a range of 1,520-2,280 (+/-20%) animals. The 2024 trend count was 2,024 elk observed on Department-operated feedgrounds and native winter ranges (Appendix 1). Winter conditions during February resulted in very good counts at feedgrounds and on winter ranges this year, compared to 2023 with very mild winter conditions. The 2022-2024 three-year winter trend count average is 2,013 elk, which is within the herd objective. This herd unit is designated as a 'recreational' herd with a bull:100 cow ratio management objective for 15-29 bulls:100 cows. The 2024 bull:cow ratio was documented at 31, slightly higher than the 2019-2023 average of 26 (Appendix 1).

Appendix 1.

2019 - 2024 Postseason Classification Summary

for Elk Herd EL108 - PINEDALE

		MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES				Males to 100 Females				Young to		
Year	Post Pop	Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Yling	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2019	0	128	210	338	17%	1,280	64%	393	20%	2,011	347	10	16	26	± 0	31	± 0	24
2020	0	146	206	352	17%	1,358	64%	397	19%	2,107	322	11	15	26	± 0	29	± 0	23
2021	0	97	167	264	14%	1,289	67%	385	20%	1,938	336	8	13	20	± 0	30	± 0	25
2022	0	132	251	383	19%	1,252	61%	419	20%	2,054	374	11	20	31	± 0	33	± 0	26
2023	0	111	197	308	16%	1,170	60%	465	24%	1,943	468	9	17	26	± 0	40	± 0	31
2024	0	128	285	413	20%	1,329	66%	283	14%	2,025	340	10	21	31	± 0	21	± 0	16

DISEASE MANAGEMENT (E108) – 2025

A total of 47 retropharyngeal lymph nodes were collected from deceased elk within the Pinedale Elk Herd Unit (PEH; E108) for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing from the onset of the hunting season through the end of the winter feeding season. Forty-five of these samples came from hunter-harvested elk. Although two hunter-harvested elk previously tested positive for CWD in Hunt Area (HA) 98 during the 2021 and 2022 seasons, no hunter-harvested elk within the herd unit has tested positive since. However, the first confirmed elk mortality attributed to CWD on a feedground within this herd unit was documented at the Scab Creek feedground during post-hunting winter feeding operations, and another later in the feeding season (see Scab Creek feedground section below).

Ear tags are permanently attached to all elk captured and released as part of brucellosis surveillance and related research initiatives. These tags are later retrieved when animals are harvested or carcasses are recovered, providing valuable insights into elk distribution, dispersal patterns, and potential disease transmission pathways within elk populations. Ear tags from elk initially captured at feedgrounds within the PEH were recovered exclusively from elk harvested inside the herd unit boundaries. No ear tags from elk originally captured outside the herd unit were recovered from elk harvested within the PEH.

Globalstar satellite GPS collars are routinely deployed to facilitate efficient monitoring of elk populations throughout the brucellosis transmission season. There are currently 24 collars "on-air" in the herd unit. The management goal is to maintain at least five active collars per feedground at all times. These collars record elk locations at two-hour intervals for up to four years, enabling detailed assessment of elk movements, identification of high-risk areas for elk-to-cattle brucellosis transmission, and evaluation of elk responses to modifications in feeding strategies intended to reduce disease transmission. Data from GPS collars continually inform and refine spatial risk models and management practices.

Seventy-six elk were captured at winter feedgrounds within E108, including 42 yearling and adult females sampled for exposure to *Brucella abortus*, the bacterium responsible for brucellosis. Of these, 18 tested seropositive, indicating a seroprevalence of 42% within the herd unit during winter 2024-25. However, only the proportion sampled from Scab Creek was statistically adequate for estimating prevalence. Captures at the other two feedgrounds primarily supported GPS collar deployments (Table 1).

Table 1. Winter 2024-25 Pinedale Elk Herd Unit Capture Summary

Feedground	# GPS collars deployed	# Captured	# Tested	# Positive	Seroprevalence
Muddy Creek	4	4	4	0	0%
Scab Creek*	10	70	36	18	50%
Fall Creek	2	2	2	0	0%
Totals =	**16**	**76**	**42**	**18**	**42%**

*statistically significant *n* for estimated prevalence to be within +/- 15% of true prevalence

Winter conditions during 2024–25 were moderate, and elk redistribution efforts proceeded as usual. Across 11 flight missions totaling 746 minutes in the Pinedale Region, a drone was utilized only once within this herd unit for a duration of 25 minutes. The effort successfully redistributed elk away from nearby private cattle operations in an effort to reduce the risk of elk-cattle commingling and potential brucellosis transmission.

Numerous game-proof fencing materials, purchased through cooperative funding agreements with USDA APHIS, have been distributed across PEH over the past several decades. Once installed, stackyards serve to eliminate food rewards for elk in areas of elevated brucellosis transmission risk, thereby reducing elk presence and minimizing the potential for elk-cattle commingling. However, none of the seven new stackyards provided to cattle producers in western Wyoming in 2024 were constructed within this herd unit.

Muddy Creek Feedground
On March 10, four adult female elk were captured at the Muddy Creek feedground using chemical immobilization for the purpose of deploying GPS collars. None of the captured elk tested seropositive for brucellosis, as shown in Table 1. Currently, eight satellite GPS collars are active on elk that winter at this feedground, including collars deployed in previous years.

Scab Creek Feedground
Early in the 2024-25 winter feeding season, chronic wasting disease (CWD) was confirmed at the Scab Creek feedground. A 6.5-year-old adult female elk, first captured as a yearling on March 3, 2020, and recaptured at the same location on March 28, 2023, was reported to be in healthy condition and fitted with a GPS collar during the recapture. This elk died on December 30, 2024, and was discovered the same day by the elk feeder. Postmortem examination conducted during CWD sampling confirmed the animal was extremely emaciated and lab testing yielded the positive result.

On February 12, a total of 70 elk were captured in the elk trap at the feedground for routine disease surveillance. Blood samples were collected from 36 yearling and adult females. Eighteen of them tested positive, resulting in a seroprevalence of 50% at this feedground (Table 1).

The trapping effort at Scab Creek feedground also facilitated research aimed at evaluating experimental CWD vaccines. Twenty-four juvenile female elk were captured and transported to the Wildlife Research Center at Sybille to participate in vaccine trials currently underway.

Concurrent with routine brucellosis testing, a pilot project was initiated to evaluate the feasibility of conducting rectal biopsies for CWD testing within a feedground trap setting. Although rectal biopsy is an established method for detecting CWD in live animals, it had not previously been attempted on elk at a feedground. Nine elk were selected for this sampling effort, prioritizing those visibly in poor body condition to increase detection probability. All nine elk sampled for CWD, along with one additional adult female elk, were fitted with satellite GPS collars. One elk from this group, aged 2-5 years, tested positive for CWD. However, due to a delay at the out-of-state laboratory, results were not available until after the elk had already succumbed to the disease, marking the second confirmed CWD-positive elk death at this feedground during the season.

Six additional deceased elk from the Scab Creek feedground were tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD) during the winter feeding season; however, none tested positive for the disease. Among these was one adult female elk exhibiting emaciation, a potential indicator of CWD, which was lethally removed to mitigate disease transmission risks within the densely concentrated elk population. Two other elk (an adult female and a juvenile male) died from injuries sustained during trapping operations. Additionally, a yearling female elk was euthanized due to severe injuries, likely inflicted by a bull elk. Two older, emaciated elk captured on February 12 and fitted with satellite GPS collars died off-feedground after the feeding season had concluded.

With ten new GPS collars deployed this season and three confirmed mortalities involving collared elk, nine collars remain active at Scab Creek, including those deployed in previous years.

Fall Creek Feedground
On March 4, two adult female elk were captured at the Fall Creek feedground using chemical immobilization to deploy GPS collars. Neither of the captured elk tested positive for brucellosis (Table 1). Currently, seven satellite GPS collars remain active on elk wintering at this feedground, including those deployed in previous years.

2024 - JCR Evaluation Form

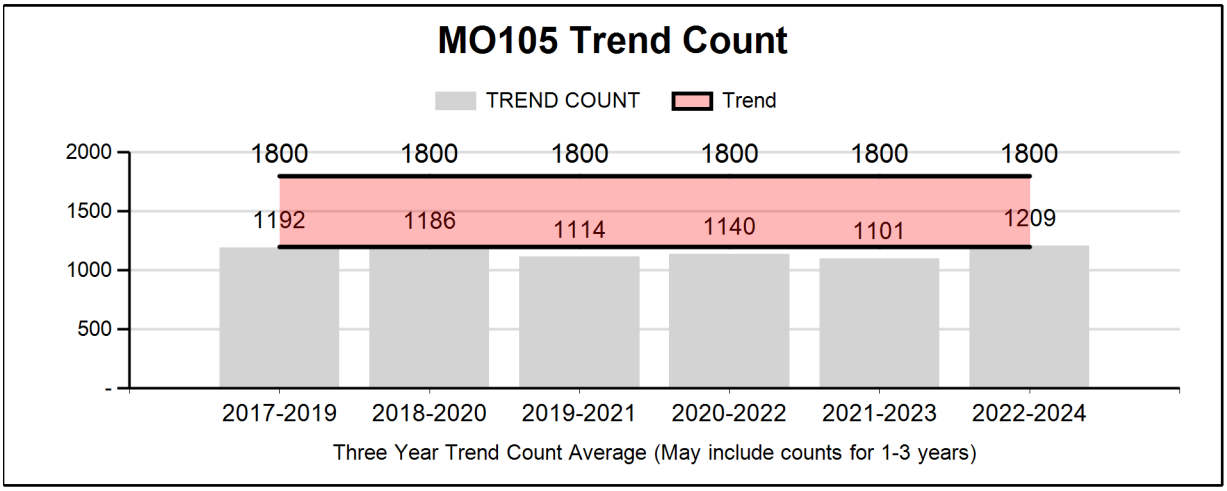
SPECIES: Moose
PERIOD: 6/1/2024 - 5/31/2025
HERD: MO105 - SUBLETTE
HUNT AREAS: 3, 5, 10, 20-25
PREPARED BY: DEAN CLAUSE

	2019 - 2023 Average	2024	2025 Proposed
Trend Count:	1,130	1,317	1,350
Harvest:	145	131	130
Hunters:	156	143	145
Hunter Success:	93%	92%	90 %
Active Licenses:	156	143	145
Active License Success	93%	92%	90 %
Recreation Days:	1,317	1,071	1,075
Days Per Animal:	9.1	8.2	8.3
Males per 100 Females:	69	69	
Juveniles per 100 Females	42	46	

Trend Based Objective (± 20%)	1,500 (1200 - 1800)
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or (-) objective:	-12.2%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	0

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	JCR Year	Proposed
Females ≥ 1 year old:	0%	0%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	0%	0%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	0%	0%



2025 HUNTING SEASONS
Sublette Moose (MO105)

Hunt Area	Type	Special Archery Dates		Regular Season Dates		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes	Opens	Closes		
3	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 19	Sep. 20	Oct. 31	15	Antlered moose (14 residents, 1 nonresident)
5	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	20	Antlered moose (18 residents, 2 nonresidents)
10	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Oct. 31	8	Antlered moose (7 residents, 1 nonresident)
20	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Oct. 31	15	Antlered moose (13 residents, 2 nonresidents)
21	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Oct. 31	2	Antlered moose (1 resident, 1 nonresident)
22	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	5	Antlered moose (5 residents)
23	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Oct. 31	10	Antlered moose (9 residents, 1 nonresident)
24	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Oct. 31	20	Antlered moose (18 residents, 2 nonresidents)
25	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	45	Antlered moose (41 residents, 4 nonresidents)
25	4	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	5	Antlerless moose, except cow moose with calf at side (5 residents)

License Summary: Type 1 = 140 licenses (126 residents; 14 non-residents); Type 4 = 5 licenses (5 residents; 0 non-resident)

2024 Management Summary

1.) Hunting Season Evaluation: Moose harvest during the 2024 season continued to maintain high success at 92% with hunter effort around 8 days/harvest for the Sublette herd unit. Hunt areas within the herd ranged from 50% to 100% success and varied from 5 to 24 days/harvest for bulls. Managers attempt to maintain an average age of harvest for bulls around 4.0 years or higher to provide hunters with opportunities to harvest 'trophy' class bulls. The previous 5-year average age for harvested bulls is 4.2 years old. An average antler width of 38 inches was reported in this herd during 2024, derived from 64% of successful moose hunters that submitted antler information with tooth collections.

Success, hunter effort and bull quality vary among individual hunt areas somewhat due to weather conditions, license allocations and moose densities. Although license allocations have remained near 145 the past few years, the total number of licenses issued has declined from a total of 630 licenses in 2002, to 145 in 2024, a total decrease of 485 (77%). These reductions by license type since 2002 equates to declines of 98% (230 to 5) cow/calf (type 4) licenses and 65% (400 to 140) bull (type 1) licenses. The 2025 moose seasons in this herd unit will be the same for a total of 140 type 1 licenses. Five type 4 licenses will again be available in hunt area 25, for a total herd quota of 145 licenses.

2.) Herd Unit Evaluation: Undetermined moose deaths have been documented within this herd during past years. The significance of these spring mortalities are currently unknown, and it

appears other factors besides hunter harvest is slowing population growth. A study conducted during 2011-2014 within a portion of this herd unit documented moose demographics, body condition and survival rates to help managers better understand issues and problems within this moose population. Findings from this study indicate lower than expected adult female survival, fluctuating pregnancy rates, and high calf survival rates. Fat measurements from study animals indicated overall poor body condition, suggesting poor quality habitat. A combination of factors such as habitat conditions, disease, parasites and predation may all be attributing to limited population growth in this herd.

3.) Population and Trend Evaluation: Data for this herd unit suggest this moose population declined during the late 1990's, stabilized in 2004 and 2005, slowly increased through 2013, and has stabilized to present. Starting in 2013, a mid-winter trend count was approved as the management objective for this herd unit instead of post-hunt population estimates. The mid-winter trend objective for this herd is 1,500 moose (+/-20%), with a range of 1200–1800 animals. The postseason 2024 mid-winter trend count of 1,317 with average to above average snow conditions was higher than the 979 moose count in 2023 with mild winter conditions, but similar to the count of 1331 in 2022 with above average snow conditions. The most recent 3-year average (2022-2024) trend count of 1,209 moose is within the trend objective. Above average snow conditions are attributed to the higher trend counts in both 2022 and 2024, when snow accumulations were above average on most winter habitats forcing moose to lower elevations where they are generally more observable. Moose classification data from the 2024 postseason survey flights documented a bull ratio of 69:100 cows and calf ratio of 46:100 cows (Appendix 1), similar to the previous 5-year average bull:cow:calf ratio of 69:100:42. Maintaining comparable classification survey efforts (flight time) compared to previous years can provide managers a reliable data set that reflect population trends in this herd unit. These mid-winter trend counts do not reflect the actual moose population, as not all areas with wintering moose are surveyed and not all moose are observed in those areas that are surveyed.

4.) Harvest Age and Antler Width Data: A total of 95 teeth representing approximately 73% of the reported 2024 harvest were aged using cementum annuli analysis. Tooth sample size over the past 10 years has ranged between 54% and 73% of the total harvest. The 2024 tooth ages from the WGFD lab tallied an average age of 4.4 (median age = 4.0), remaining relatively similar at approximately 4.0 years during the past two decades (Appendix 2). The low sample sizes used to derive female ages in recent years results in erratic and unreliable trends. The average antler width of hunter harvested bull moose was 38 inches in this herd during 2024, derived from 64% of successful bull moose hunters that submitted both antler information and tooth collections, and is identical to the long-term average antler width.

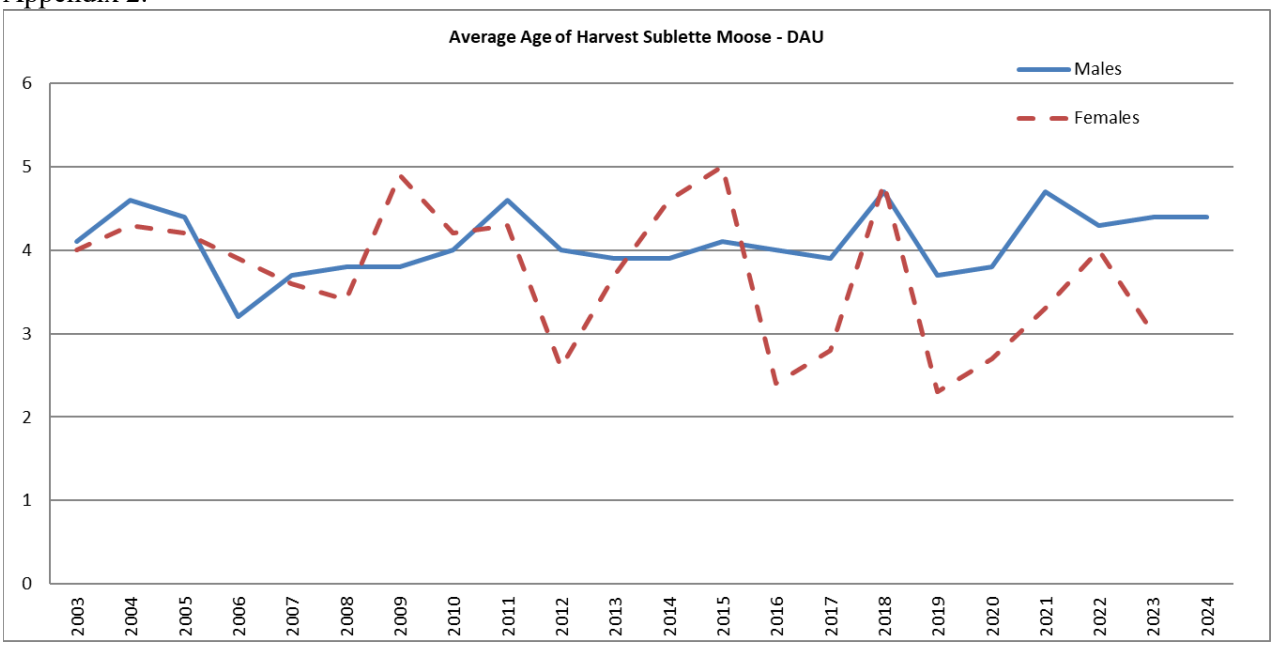
Appendix 1.

2019 - 2024 Postseason Classification Summary

for Moose Herd MO105 - SUBLETTE

		MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES				Males to 100 Females				Young to		
Year	Post Pop	Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Yling	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2019	0	0	412	412	34%	567	47%	224	19%	1,203	830	0	73	73	± 0	40	± 0	23
2020	0	0	345	345	31%	519	47%	241	22%	1,105	712	0	66	66	± 0	46	± 0	28
2021	0	0	337	337	34%	456	46%	192	19%	985	644	0	74	74	± 0	42	± 0	24
2022	0	0	407	407	32%	644	50%	241	19%	1,292	736	0	63	63	± 0	37	± 0	23
2023	0	0	314	314	32%	450	46%	205	21%	969	635	0	70	70	± 0	46	± 0	27
2024	0	0	415	415	32%	603	47%	275	21%	1,293	784	0	69	69	± 0	46	± 0	27

Appendix 2.


Average Age of Harvest Sublette Moose - DAU
Males
Females
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024

2024 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Mule Deer
PERIOD: 6/1/2024 - 5/31/2025

HERD: MD104 - SUBLETTE

HUNT AREAS: 130-131, 138-142, 146, 150-156
PREPARED BY: DEAN CLAUSE

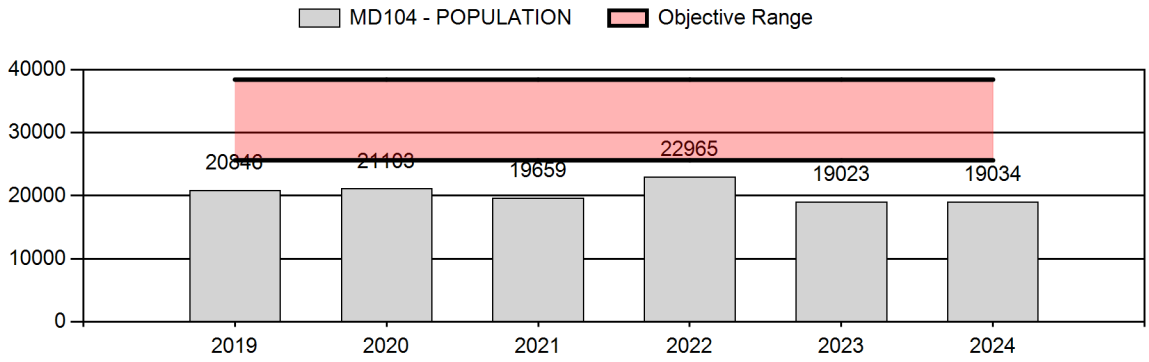
	2019 - 2023 Average	2024	2025 Proposed
Population:	20,719	19,034	22,000
Harvest:	1,259	702	900
Hunters:	3,835	2,768	3,000
Hunter Success:	33%	25%	30 %
Active Licenses:	3,877	2,768	3,000
Active License Success:	32%	25%	30 %
Recreation Days:	20,606	13,712	15,000
Days Per Animal:	16.4	19.5	16.7
Males per 100 Females	35	34	
Juveniles per 100 Females	67	76	

Population Objective (± 20%) :	32000 (25600 - 38400)
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	-40.5%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	8
Model Date:	03/03/2025

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	JCR Year	Proposed
Females ≥ 1 year old:	0%	0%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	19%	22%
Proposed change in post-season population:	+4%	+16%

Population Size - Postseason



2025 HUNTING SEASONS
Sublette Deer (MD104)

Hunt Area	Type	Special Archery Dates		Regular Season Dates		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes	Opens	Closes		
130	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 6		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
130	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 15	Oct. 31	5	Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
131	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 6		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
131	7	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	25	Doe or fawn valid west of the Blue Rim (Sweetwater County Road 5) and Old Stauffer Roads (Sweetwater County Road 7) and south of the OCI Entrance Road (Sweetwater County Road 6)
138	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
138, 139, 140, 142, 143	3	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Nov. 30	50	Any white-tailed deer
139	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer

140	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
141	1	Sep. 1	Sep. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 21	50	Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
141	1			Oct. 22	Oct. 31		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer on national forest
142	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
146	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
148, 150, 151, 152, 155, 156	3	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Nov. 30	50	Any white-tailed deer
148, 150, 151, 152, 155, 156	8	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Nov. 30	50	Doe or fawn white-tailed deer
150	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer

151	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
152	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
153	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
154	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
155	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer
156	Gen	Sep. 1	Sep. 14	Sep. 15	Sep. 30		Antlered mule deer four (4) points or more on either antler or any white-tailed deer

*hunt areas with green font are not part of the Sublette herd.

2025 Region H nonresident quota: 350 licenses

2024 Hunter Satisfaction: 45% Satisfied, 28% Neutral, 27% Dissatisfied

2025 Management Summary

Hunting Season Evaluation

The 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons in the Sublette mule deer herd were more conservative in comparison to previous years in response to above average winter deer losses due to harsh conditions during the 2022-23 winter. The 2024 hunting season was the most conservative in over 30 years, with an eleven day general season with an antler point restriction (APR) of 4-points or better. Since 2016, this herd has seen little growth, and remains below the population objective range of 25,600 to 38,400 deer, although the buck ratio objective (range of 30-45 bucks:100 does) has been maintained. For 2025, general license

hunting opportunities will be similar to 2023 seasons, and more liberal than in 2024, opening on September 15 and closing September 30 (6 days longer than in 2024) with an APR of four points or better in most hunt areas within the herd. The APR has facilitated maintaining buck ratios within management objectives, and will be removed as buck ratios improve or are maintained, most likely in 2026. The type 3 and type 8 licenses provide limited white-tailed deer harvest opportunities in the herd. Limited quota licenses (type 1) in hunt areas 130 and 141 will be the same as in 2024, and Non-resident Region H licenses will be increased to 400 (+50 licenses). A type 7 license will be added in hunt area 131 to address damage concerns along the Green River.

Winter survival, habitat condition and quality on winter ranges, and habitat loss (direct and indirect) from gas and residential development are the primary issues influencing population dynamics in the Sublette mule deer herd. During the past 10 years, this herd experienced three winters that resulted in above average fawn mortality (> 50% loss). Winter conditions experienced in 2018-19 resulted in winter fawn losses of 50+%, and the winter of 2016-17 resulted in considerable mortality when fawn losses were estimated near 85% and adult mortality near 35%. During the winter of 2010-11, fawn mortality estimates exceeded 70%. The 2022-23 winter was similar to 2016-17, although tough winter conditions persisted much longer into spring, and the number of days recorded with below zero (F) temperatures broke long term records. The severe 2022-23 winter conditions resulted in above average winter deer mortality with an estimated fawn loss around 70%, and estimated adult female mortality neared 30%. This winter loss and foreseeable reduction in buck ratios triggered managers to implement an APR, shorten seasons, and reduce quotas in 2023 and 2024 to maintain buck ratios. Winter fawn mortality estimates average around 30% on most years when winter severity is moderate to average. Fawn production has steadily improved during the past two years with good over winter survival during the 2023-24 winter. Current annual growth on key winter browse species has varied among years, but the overall habitat conditions remain poor with some improvement on certain years (Appendix 1).

Gas field development has and will continue to impact deer numbers within the Sublette herd. The Pinedale Anticline gas field development overlaps with crucial winter range located on the Mesa, where annual population estimates indicate deer numbers have declined by roughly 40% from 2001–2017. Studies have demonstrated that deer avoid areas with intensive winter gas development, resulting in less forage available for wintering deer within and adjacent to gas development. Overall hunter satisfaction has been good within this herd in most years, even following years with above average winter mortality and fewer deer.

Management Objective Review

The Sublette Deer Herd has approached or maintained a population near the objective of 32,000 only three times since 1993, and when high population levels have been observed, typically the next hard winter results in above average mortality. Local managers believe lowering the population objective is likely warranted, and could help sustain a more stable population. However, with the current low deer population mostly due to extreme winter conditions during 2022-23, the timing for any proposed objective change will likely be better received by the public when the population has increased from current levels. The next herd unit objective review is scheduled for 2029 and pending population performance, a population objective change will likely be proposed.

Chronic Wasting Disease Management

The Sublette mule deer herd has been identified as an ongoing priority area for CWD sampling. A total of 631 hunter-harvested CWD samples have been collected from deer in this herd from 2020-2024. During this 5-year period, nine adult mule deer bucks have tested positive for CWD for a 1.8% (9/506) prevalence, and one white-tailed deer buck tested positive for a 5.9% (1/17) prevalence. No positive deer have been detected in any other sex/age class (Table 1). An adult female was the first deer to test positive in this herd in April, 2017.

Table 1. CWD prevalence for hunter-harvested mule deer in the Sublette Mule Deer Herd, 2020- 2024.

Year	Percent CWD-Positive and sample size (n) *Hunter Harvest Only*			Percent of Harvested Adult Males Sampled
	All Adult Male Deer (CI = 95%)	Yearling Males	Adult Females	
2020	0.9%, 1, (n=111)	0% (n=16)	0.0% (14)	5.1
2021	0%, (n=153)	0% (n=23)	0.0% (n=7)	10.5
2022	3.5%, 4, (n=118)	0% (n=25)	0.0% (n=5)	7.9
2023	6.3%, 4, (n=65)	0% (n=3)	0.0% (0)	6.5
2024	0%, (n=76)	0% (n=4)	0.0% (1)	5.8
2020-2024	1.8%, n=9 (0.8 – 3.3%) (n=523)	0% (71)	0.0% (37)	7.6

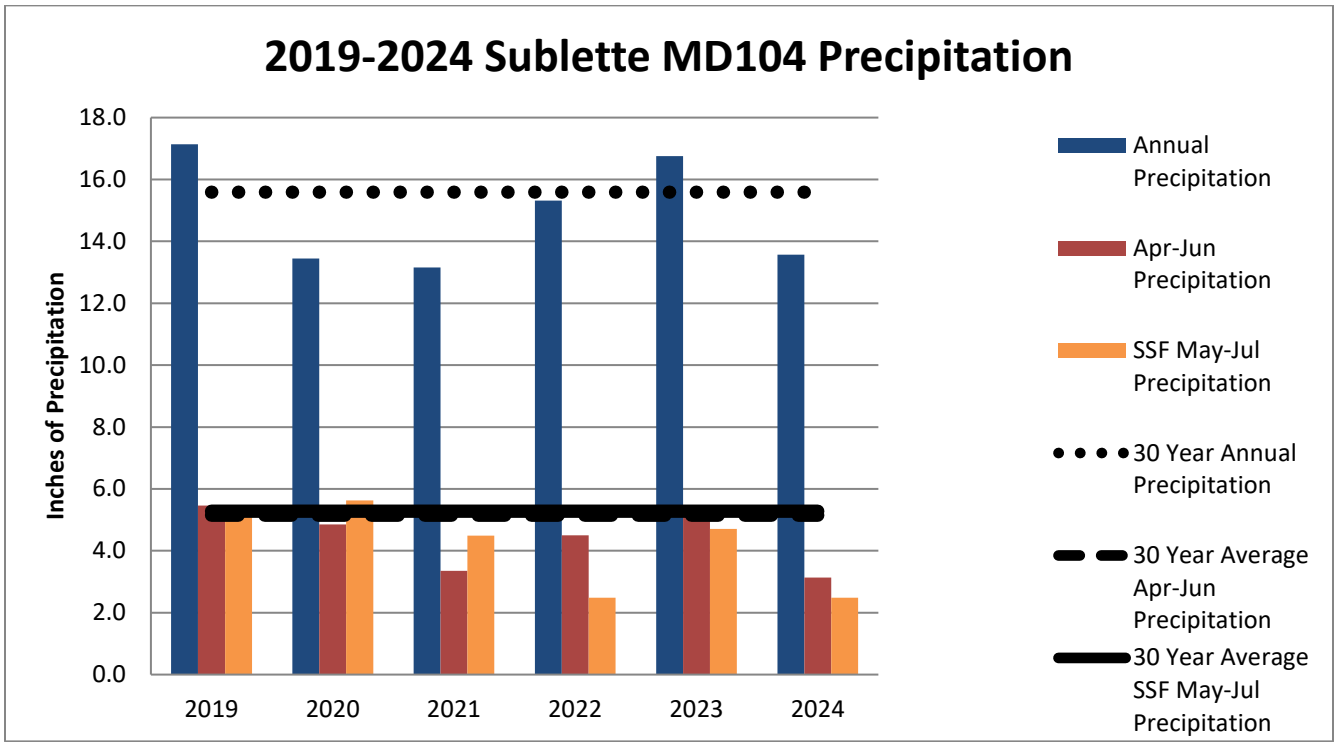
Population and Trend Evaluation

The post-season population objective for the Sublette mule deer herd is 32,000 deer (+/- 20%). An Integrated Population Model (IPM) is utilized annually using harvest, sex/age ratios, and survival data to project population estimates and trends for this herd. The 2024 postseason IPM population mean estimate is 19,034 deer using a Fixed Effect structure where adult survival is constant. This model tracks the population trend, but minimizes the decrease in 2023 and increase in 2024 that field data suggest. Tough winter conditions during 2022-23 resulted in known winter losses estimated at 30% for adult females and 70% for fawns. Overall, the 2024 post-season IPM estimates a slight increase in the population of roughly 4%, although this population likely experienced a greater increase. The 2024 post-season classification ratio data resulted in the highest fawn ratios (76:100) documented since 2006, while the overall buck ratios remained similar to 2024 (34:100). The high fawn ratio, along with good overwinter survival during 2023-24, should likely result in a greater 2024 post-season abundance estimate than what the IPM determined (Appendix 2).

During February and March of 2022 a sightability survey was conducted for the first time in the Sublette herd, and estimated a 2021 post-season population of 20,025 deer (raw count = 15,153 X 1.19 (sightability inflation) X 1.11 (sampling inflation)). Sightability surveys can be very useful for grounding abundance estimates in the models, and for evaluation of past and current models. Another sightability survey, currently planned for 2027, should help align the IPM following the uncertain population decline from the 2022-23 winter, and assist managers with tracking the herd's rebound. Trend counts from postseason classification counts also reflect the population trends quite well in this herd, as survey time and coverage has remained mostly similar from year to year. The 2024 documented buck ratios were 34:100 does (10 yearling bucks:100 does) and similar to the past 5-year average.

Appendix 1.

Weather



Precipitation

The Parameter-Elevation Relationships on Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) was utilized to estimate precipitation by calculating a climate-elevation regression for each Digital Elevation Model grid cell (4km resolution) for the Sublette Mule Deer Herd Unit during the water year from October 2023 through September 2024. Data reported that annual precipitation was below the 30 year average and is a result of lower than normal winter snowpack. Precipitation during the growing season (April – June) and precipitation that fell between May and July, contributing to plant growth in higher elevation seasonal ranges, were significantly lower than average.

Winter Severity 2024/2025

Most low elevation winter ranges have experienced slightly below average monthly snow fall accumulation between November 2024 and April 1, 2025 compared to above average snow fall in the higher elevations. SNOWTEL sites at higher elevations showed the snow water equivalent ranging from 98-119% of the median as of April 1, 2025 suggesting at or above average soil moisture conditions at most locations which is anticipated to result in improved growing conditions during April, May and June of 2025. Temperatures recorded from locations near winter ranges were near average, but varied considerably throughout the months of January and February of 2025, experiencing both extreme highs and lows outside of long-term averages. Overall, winter severity on crucial ranges was relatively mild, providing deer access to forage and not significantly restricting movement.

Habitat

Several habitat improvement efforts occurred within the herd unit during 2024. Approximately 3,000 acres of seral aspen and conifer communities were broadcast burned on Monument Ridge located on USFS lands outside of Bondurant, WY and additional mechanical prep for future prescribed fire operations were also completed. Over 10,000 acres were treated with aerial herbicide to control cheatgrass along the west slope of the Wind River Mountains ranging from the Prospect Mountains to New Fork Lake. 275 acres of mountain big sagebrush was mechanically treated with a mower across 864 acres of transitional habitat resulting in a mosaic of 32%. Approximately 17.5 miles of fence were modified or converted to wildlife-friendly standards. Lastly, crews constructed the final steel jack fence exclosure associated with the Red Desert Springs Project. Partners erected 1,100 ft. of 6.5 ft. high steel jack fence around a headwaters seep on the White Horse Creek drainage near Pacific Butte. The exclosure is expected to promote riparian vegetative recovery and re-saturate soils, thereby encouraging greater surface water and wet meadow restoration further down the drainage away from the fenced area.

Winter range shrub transects were monitored at 3 locations throughout the Mesa and Long Draw winter ranges during fall of 2024 to evaluate trends in annual leader growth of Wyoming big sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush. Results show that growth was below the long-term average for all sites. Shrub monitoring also occurred in the north Superior area between Deer and Cabin Buttes. The survey was conducted during the early fall to evaluate annual leader production of antelope bitterbrush as available browse for mule deer in the southern end of the migration corridor on crucial winter-year-yearlong range. The mean annual bitterbrush leader growth in 2024 was 3.9 inches.

Department personnel also conducted monitoring associated with past and future treatments throughout the herd unit during 2024.

In 2015, Department personnel initiated the Rapid Habitat Assessment methodology to survey important mule deer habitats. This method strives to capture large-scale habitat quality metrics to better understand how the habitat is functioning for the current population of mule deer. In the Sublette Herd during 2024 department personnel completed 1,470 acres of aspen and rangeland surveys within the Pinedale Region. Of these acres, 11% were meeting objectives and the remaining 89% were considered partially meeting objectives, but trending down.

Appendix 2.

2016 - 2024 Postseason Classification Summary

for Mule Deer Herd MD104 - SUBLETTE

		MALES							FEMALES		JUVENILES				Males to 100 Females				Young to		
Year	Post Pop	Ylg	2+ Cls 1	2+ Cls 2	2+ Cls 3	2+ UnCls	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Yling	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2016	28,509	660	646	647	231	5	2,189	20%	5,285	49%	3,207	30%	10,681	1,248	12	29	41	± 1	61	± 1	43
2017	17,299	178	503	480	142	0	1,303	18%	3,907	55%	1,902	27%	7,112	1,123	5	29	33	± 1	49	± 1	37
2018	19,838	430	338	405	157	0	1,330	18%	3,663	49%	2,491	33%	7,484	1,444	12	25	36	± 1	68	± 2	50
2019	20,846	263	385	390	142	0	1,180	18%	3,130	49%	2,086	33%	6,396	1,402	8	29	38	± 1	67	± 2	48
2020	21,103	276	301	326	111	0	1,014	17%	2,884	49%	1,945	33%	5,843	1,425	10	26	35	± 1	67	± 2	50
2021	19,659	194	195	159	57	0	605	15%	2,044	50%	1,427	35%	4,076	1,499	9	20	30	± 2	70	± 3	54
2022	22,965	571	452	336	134	0	1,493	17%	4,155	48%	2,934	34%	8,582	1,536	14	22	36	± 1	71	± 2	52
2023	19,023	156	323	280	63	0	822	18%	2,403	52%	1,438	31%	4,663	1,107	6	28	34	± 2	60	± 2	45
2024	19,034	378	332	383	129	0	1,222	16%	3,641	48%	2,782	36%	7,645	1,691	10	23	34	± 1	76	± 2	57