STATE OF WYOMING
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ORDER

Order 2020-1

(Reissued June 26, 2026 pursuant to Section 14)

WYOMING MULE DEER AND ANTELOPE MIGRATION CORRIDOR PROTECTION

WHEREAS, Wyoming is home to the longest intact mule deer and antelope migration corridors in North America, and

WHEREAS, migration corridors are essential to the maintenance of viable mule deer and antelope populations, and

WHEREAS, wildlife that utilize these corridors are highly valued by all people and contribute significantly to the economy and reputation of Wyoming, and

WHEREAS, land associated with migration corridors provide the state and nation with multiple-use opportunities that are integral to Wyoming's revenues, jobs, and way of life, and

WHEREAS, private landowners play a key role in maintaining migration corridors, and

WHEREAS, county governments play a significant role in land use planning and in conserving wildlife habitat and open spaces, and

WHEREAS, all wildlife in Wyoming are property of the State and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is charged with managing all of the State's wildlife in trust for the benefit of the citizens of the State and does so with a science-based approach, and

NOW THEREFORE, to preclude any need for more regulatory action, or action by agencies beyond the purview of the State and without coordination with the State; pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State, and to the extent such actions are consistent with the statutory obligations and authority of each individual agency, including those found in the Wyoming Regulatory Takings Act, Wyoming Statutes §§ 9-5-301 through 9-5-305, I, Mark Gordon, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby issue this Executive Order providing as follows:

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CHEYENNE, WY 82002-0010

MARK GORDON
GOVERNOR OF WYOMING

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1. The Sublette Mule Deer, Baggs Mule Deer, and Platte Valley Mule Deer Migration Corridors are hereby designated (Appendix D).

2. The process whereby other corridors could be designated in the future is established (Appendix B).

3. Nothing in this Executive Order and the attached Appendices shall apply to actions taken by landowners on their private land or restrict state-issued permits a landowner seeks on his or her own land or minerals. Private landowners should be encouraged and incentivized to manage for the functionality of migration corridors.

4. On privately-owned lands, for actions of a third-party developer requiring a state-issued permit, private landowners and the third-party developers are encouraged to finalize a surface-use agreement and to consult with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) concerning the permitted activities.

5. Each executive branch agency in Wyoming shall exercise its legal and regulatory authorities to protect the annual movement of mule deer and antelope between seasonal ranges in their respective designated migration corridors. State agencies shall follow the procedures outlined in this Executive Order, while recognizing that adjustments to management may be necessary based upon local conditions, opportunities, and limitations (Appendix C).

6. Where surface disturbance inside of designated corridors is proposed within, near, or adjacent to areas that have already been disturbed or are naturally unsuitable, state agencies should work to maintain habitat and minimize future disturbance by locating proposed disturbances within such disturbed or unsuitable areas (Appendix C).

7. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 above, any surface-disturbing activities requiring a state-issued permit within designated corridors should be permitted in a manner that maintains the continued functionality of a designated migration corridor (Appendix C).

8. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 above, any state-permitted activity within designated corridors during the migration period should be conditioned so as not to impede the functionality of the corridor by mule deer and antelope (Appendix C).

9. Valid existing rights shall be recognized and respected. Existing activities will be conducted and conditioned as specified in the original authorizing permits or instrument(s) for such activities (Appendix E).

10. For recreational activities inside of designated migration corridors requiring a state permit, permitting agencies shall issue permits with the goal of maintaining migration corridor functionality, and minimizing impacts to animals using the designated corridor during migration periods. State agencies shall make comments for federally-issued recreation permits within designated corridors with the same goal (Appendix C).

11. Boards of county commissioners may revise their land use plans to be consistent with this Executive Order. The State of Wyoming encourages this consideration and supports county governments should they develop a template for updating land-use plans consistent with this Executive Order.

12. The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WyDOT), in conjunction with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as well as other state agencies such as the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, shall plan and engineer state and federal highway and associated projects that intersect designated migration corridors to avoid, minimize and mitigate vehicle/wildlife collisions, facilitate big game movement, and support migration connectivity to the extent practical. WyDOT shall include opportunities to address wildlife/roadway infrastructure projects in its annual planning efforts.

13. This Executive Order is to be construed narrowly and limited to the habitat and activities specifically described herein.

14. This Executive Order, together with its attachments, constitutes Wyoming's strategy for managing designated migration corridors and their habitats. Appendices to this Order are expressly adopted and incorporated by reference herein, and each shall have the full force and effect of this Executive Order. Amendment to any Appendix may be made without requirement that the full Executive Order be amended.

Given my hand and the Executive Seal of the State Of Wyoming this 13 day of February 2020.

Mark Gordon
Governor

Appendix A
Definitions

Identified Migration Corridor: The geographic area used by big game for seasonal movements between summer and winter ranges that has undergone research by, or been approved by, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) to delineate the habitat and the components of habitat. Identified migration corridors are not subject to the management and processes outlined in this Executive Order, except as provided in Appendix B.

Designated Migration Corridor: An identified mule deer or antelope migration corridor that was nominated for designation by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC) and was subject to the process for designation outlined in this Executive Order, including the Sublette Mule Deer, Baggs Mule Deer, and Platte Valley Mule Deer Corridors, which are formally designated by the signing of this Executive Order.

High Use Area: Segment or portion of a mule deer and antelope migration corridor used by 20% or greater of the Global Position System (GPS)-collared animals.

Medium Use Area: Segment or portion of a mule deer and antelope migration corridor used by 10-20% of the GPS-collared animals.

Low Use Area: Segment or portion of a mule deer and antelope migration corridor used by less than 10% of the GPS-collared animals.

Stopover Areas: The area used the majority of time by GPS-collared animals to forage and rest during spring and fall migration.

Bottleneck: Any portion of a mule deer and antelope migration corridor where animals are significantly physically or behaviorally restricted.

Biological Risk Assessment: Analyses of the potential biological risks, foreseeable biological threats, and conservation opportunities that exist in the migration corridor by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. An assessment is developed with public stakeholder input and updated as conditions change on the landscape.

Migration period: The specific dates during which migrating mule deer and antelope are physically present within a portion of a designated migration corridor, which can vary from year-to-year.

Migration Corridor Functionality: Maintaining connectivity between summer and winter ranges to allow mule deer and antelope movements conducive to necessary foraging and rest during migration, based on the best-available scientific data.

Appendix B
Corridor Designation and Review Process

Wyoming is home to numerous migration corridors. The identification of corridors may benefit herd management and overall herd fitness. It is the formal act of designating, rather than identifying, a corridor that warrants limitations of human use to conserve those corridors. Not every migration corridor requires designation to ensure the health of the animals and/or the herd that uses it.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), as the agency with authority over the management of wildlife, shall lead research efforts on migration and identification of big game migration corridors. A summary of the results of WGFD research regarding migration corridors will be available to the public so long as the information is not 'sensitive wildlife location data' within the meaning of Wyoming Statute § 16-4-203. A minimum of 3 years of research on a herd's migration patterns, which includes the collaring of a representative sample of animals from the herd, is necessary for a corridor to be considered for designation. The data gathered must be combined with scientifically-sound analysis techniques. Long-term knowledge of local WGFD personnel, landowners and other stakeholders is used in addition to this data to validate the identification of mule deer and antelope migration corridors, stopover areas, and mule deer and antelope migration bottlenecks. The WGFD will establish and utilize science-based criteria for determining whether an identified corridor necessitates consideration of designation.

Prior to designation, any recommendation for the deferral of a mineral lease to the Bureau of Land Management or the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) in an identified migration corridor shall be made at the sole discretion of the Governor, in consultation with WGFD, OSLI, and commissioners from the county or counties where the lease is located.

The following process shall occur prior to any formal migration corridor designation:

1. WGFD identifies a migration corridor. During the initial identification, the following information shall be included in a publicly-available report:

    a. Mule deer or antelope pathway used to delineate the identified corridor and the underlying scientific information available that has informed the WGFD identification;
    b. The location, acreage, and land ownership of identified stopover areas;
    c. The location, acreage, and land ownership of identified bottlenecks;
    d. The location, acreage, and land ownership of identified high-use, medium-use, and low-use areas within the corridor;

2. If WGFD's initial report on an identified corridor determines designation may be warranted and the corridor meets established and publicly available criteria, the agency will develop a Biological Risk Assessment. Any assessment will be developed with appropriate county, state,

and federal agency partners and updated as conditions warrant. The Biological Risk Assessment should not take more than 12 months to prepare and will involve public meetings in the region of the identified corridor. WGFD shall, consistent with its statutory authority, notify private landowners of identified migration corridors that intersect with that private landowner's property.

3. WGFD presents the identified corridor and Biological Risk Assessment to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC).

4. WGFC shall provide an opportunity for public comment regarding the identified corridor and the Biological Risk Assessment.

5. After considering the identified corridor, the Biological Risk Assessment, and public comment, the WGFC shall vote on whether to recommend to the Governor that an identified corridor be formally designated.

6. The Governor then determines if a designation will proceed. If the determination is made to proceed, the Governor will appoint an Area Working Group in consultation with the county commissioners representing any county through which an identified corridor passes, and if the corridor passes through the Wind River Indian Reservation, tribal representatives. Membership of the area working groups will include one county commissioner from each affected county, and if affected, a representative from the Eastern Shoshone and a representative from the Northern Arapaho Tribes. Other working group members will include up to seven individuals, at least two of whom will represent hunting, conservation, and wildlife, one will represent motorized outdoor recreation users, at least two of whom will represent agriculture, and at least two will represent industrial users including oil, gas, mining and renewable energy. All members of the Area Working Group will be appointed at the sole discretion of the Governor.

Area Working Groups will meet in public and must complete their work in a timely manner. Their work will be completed in the timeframe specified by the Governor, and will be focused on those topics specified by the Governor including, but not limited to: WGFD's risk assessment, corridor components, potential impacts on socio-economic conditions of the region (jobs, county and state revenues, population, incomes, etc.), conservation opportunities, highway projects, and other factors appropriate to the potential designation. They will also be directed to make recommendations on potential management after designation related to contested permits.

These recommendations should take into consideration any county commission plans established to manage development inside the corridor as well as any BLM or Forest Service planning documents.

7. Final Area Working Group analysis and determination shall then be delivered to the Governor who either formally designates the identified corridor, returns the recommendation to WGFD for further refinement, or formally rejects the proposal for designation.

8. In consultation with affected county commissioners and tribes, an Area Working Group of similar membership to that outlined above will be convened within five years of designation of a corridor. For the Sublette Mule Deer, Baggs Mule Deer, and Platte Valley Mule Deer Corridors the Governor will convene area working groups within two years. These groups will review the effectiveness of corridor designation on the migratory herd, opportunities for improved conservation, and evaluate the impacts of all restrictions on development and use of lands encompassed in the designated corridor. Each Area Working Group will report their findings to the Governor along with any other relevant recommendations.

Appendix C
New Infrastructure, Recreational Use and Development Conditions

Wherever possible, development, infrastructure, and use should occur outside of designated corridors. Inside corridors, state regulatory agencies should support the continued functionality of designated migration corridors by conditioning permits to avoid and minimize impacts from development or use allowed within the corridor.

Applicants for state-permitted projects and state-permitted uses within a designated migration corridor are required to consult with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) as part of the permitting process. After a consultation with the proponent, if the WGFD determines the proposed project or use will have adverse effects on migration corridor functionality the agency will work with the permit applicant to address these effects and provide recommendations to the proponent within five days. Permit applicants shall have access to all information considered in developing recommendations. Upon completion of that consultation, if the applicant does not agree with the recommendations of the WGFD it must prepare a letter outlining concerns with the WGFD recommendations. The WGFD will then deliver the recommendation and, if applicable, the accompanying letter to the Governor's Office within two days. The Governor shall review these materials and recommend a resolution of the applicant's concerns to the WGFD and the applicant. After conferring with the applicant and making any appropriate revisions, the WGFD shall submit the final recommendation to the appropriate permitting agency. Upon final issuance of the state permit, a single correspondence will be forwarded to appropriate federal, state, and county permitting agencies.

The following components of a corridor have unique management considerations for all development and uses:

> Bottlenecks: No surface disturbance or seasonal-human presence shall be permitted within bottlenecks, and state agencies shall restrict uses to those that do not impair migration corridor functionality, except in cases necessary for human safety.

High Use Areas: Surface disturbance and human presence shall be limited to levels that maintain the corridor functionality and do not cause migrating mule deer or antelope to avoid or leave the high-use portion of the designated corridor during migration periods.

Stopovers within High Use Areas: Within stopovers in high-use portions of the corridor, surface disturbance should be avoided. Permitted human activities during migration periods should be limited or avoided.

Low and Medium Use Areas and Stopovers Within: Development and use can occur. Minimization, including project alterations, recreational permit restrictions, and other efforts that can be shown to reduce impacts to these areas should be considered where appropriate and will take into account whether an area is a low or medium use area. Surface disturbance, development and human presence during migration periods should be limited. Within low and medium use areas special consideration should be given to stopover areas to minimize disturbances.

Federal leases, permits, rights of way, or other authorizations issued after designation of any corridor by the Governor should be issued to conform with the provisions of this Executive Order. State executive branch agencies will coordinate and cooperate with federal agencies and comment on federal agency actions in a manner that is consistent with this Executive Order.

Appendix D
Maps

Maps and specific shapefiles of of the three designated migration corridors are available at https://wgfd.wyo.gov/wildlife-in-wyoming/migration

Appendix E
Valid Existing Rights

Within designated corridors existing rights shall be recognized and respected in furtherance of this Executive Order. Authorized activities, which are existing or permitted prior to the Governor's designation of a corridor are not subject to this Executive Order. Examples of existing activities include oil and gas development, mining, wind energy development, solar development, permitted recreational uses, transmission lines, processing facilities, state and federal highways, and other uses that were in place prior to the designation of the migration corridors and specific components of the corridors. State-permitted activities, including Industrial Siting Council permitted projects, within a defined project boundary (such as a pre-existing oil and gas unit, mine permit, state or federal highway right-of-way, utility or other right-of-way, existing permitted recreational use etc.) shall be allowed to continue within the

existing boundary subject only to the terms, conditions and authorizations specified for the activity.

For purposes of this Executive Order,"Pre-existing Oil and Gas Units" means oil and gas units established prior to the designation of any corridor by the Governor and includes applications for permit to drill, drilling and spacing units, and federal exploratory units. Existing infrastructure within pre-existing Oil and Gas Units within designated migration corridors is not subject to regulation pursuant to this Executive Order. However, new development within pre-existing Oil and Gas Units inside bottlenecks should not be allowed.

Each situation should be addressed with flexibility and an understanding of the local landscape, habitats and other factors. Proponents and agencies are still expected to minimize surface disturbance whenever possible and follow all other existing, applicable lease stipulations.

Mining: Leasable Coal Mining Operations; Coal mining activities authorized prior to the designation of a corridor by the Governor and included within the approved permit boundary will be allowed to continue under the regulatory and permit-specific terms and conditions authorized under the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act (WEQA) and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) as administered by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ). Leasable, Locatable, and Saleable Non-Coal Mining Operations and Non-Coal Solid Mineral mining activities within a permit boundary approved prior to the designation of a corridor by the Governor are not subject to this Executive Order.

Existing, permitted/authorized corridors and rights-of-way (ROWs) for roads, power lines, pipelines, and other utilities (e.g.- water, sewer) are considered valid existing rights.

Activities and maintenance within ROWs or corridors for transmission, distribution power lines, substations, pipelines, and other utilities established and authorized prior to the date of designation by the Governor are not subject to this Executive Order. Activities within ROWs for state and federal highways established and authorized by the Wyoming Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration prior to designation of the corridor by the Governor are not subject to this Executive Order.

Any application to alter or amend existing oil and gas permit authorizations, rights of way, wind permits, solar permits, recreational use permits, or oil and gas lease terms (including but not limited to suspensions of operations, and extensions of the lease term), within any corridor designated by the Governor shall be considered a new use and the terms of this Executive Order apply to the granting of such alterations or amendments.

State executive branch agencies will coordinate and cooperate with federal agencies and comment on federal agency actions that alter or amend existing federal authorizations within designated corridors to ensure compliance with this Executive Order.

Appendix F
Agriculture

Functioning ranches and agricultural lands provide crucial ecological and habitat services to all wildlife, including mule deer and antelope. Economically viable and well-managed private lands are valued because they provide open space, forage, water, and security for big game herds and migration habitats.

To aid in the continued existence of open spaces, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and other State agencies shall use research and knowledge to facilitate the continued existence of functioning ranches and agricultural lands that provide crucial ecological and habitat services to wildlife and ways to recognize the value of ecosystem services.

State agencies should work with private landowners to build upon efforts to conserve migration corridor habitats.

Coordination

To aid in the conservation and enhancement of migration corridors the State of Wyoming will support voluntary enrollment in landowner-focused programs. These may include federal, state, local, and private conservation funds to support conservation easements, habitat improvements, and investments on projects and initiatives inside of designated and identified corridors.

Range improvement projects

In identified and designated migration corridors, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department shall provide information to landowners who voluntarily seek assistance in siting new range improvement projects, such as water sources and fences, and in modifying existing range improvement projects.

Alternative funding programs for private landowners

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, as well as other state agencies, shall explore opportunities to support private landowners that sustain and enhance big game migration corridor habitats. This includes evaluating alternative funding opportunities, such as the potential to develop a habitat leasing/conservation leasing program.

Management flexibility on federal grazing allotments

State agencies that review and assist in developing Allotment Management Plans and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents related to grazing management and associated decisions shall work with land managers, permittees, and federal land management agencies to identify opportunities and implement voluntary actions to improve both habitat associated with big game migrations and livestock operations through management flexibility and adaptive

management. This Executive Order shall in no way restrict or impede the right and ability of permittees to graze livestock on federal and state lands.

Appendix G
Research

Furthering research on migration corridors is imperative as is maintaining the research and upkeep on information related to designated corridors to ensure management is influenced by the best-available science.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the University of Wyoming and Wyoming community colleges should continue to provide the public with research on migration and seasonal habitats.

Specific topics that may be explored, but are not limited to, include:

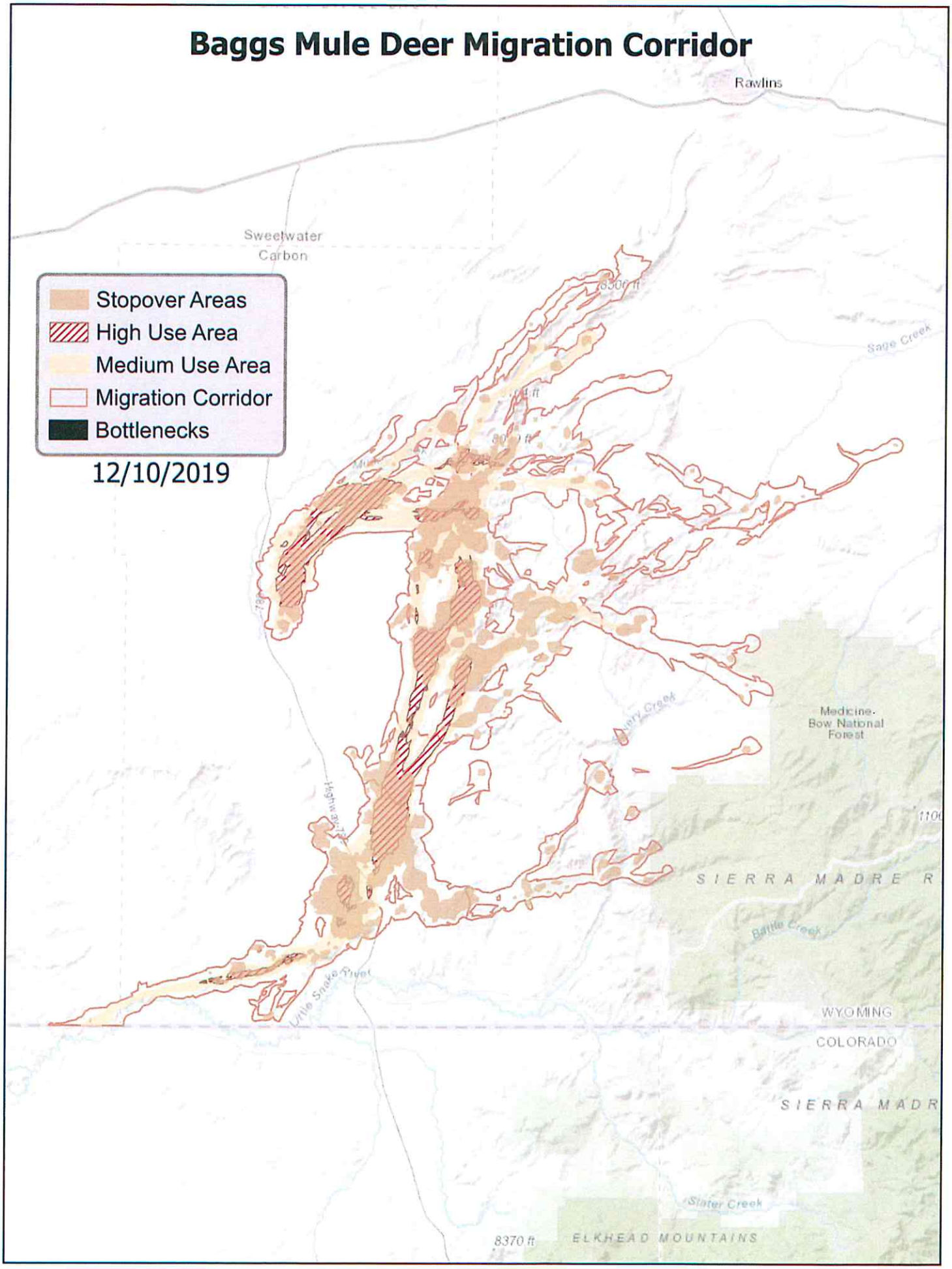
- Stopover areas and their use by mule deer and antelope. Including response of animals to the existing development inside of stopover areas, deer and antelope's cause for selection of stopover areas, why these migrating animals select specific stopover areas, impact of reclamation, and change of stopover size and habitat over time.
- Technologies for decreasing vehicle-caused mortality.
- The impact of human recreation inside of migration and other seasonal habitat.
- Competition between deer and pronghorn with the following other species: elk, predators, invasive and noxious weeds, and feral horses. (As data emerges from currently ongoing studies, the Game and Fish Department and Commission should develop recommendations to manage, mitigate and, where possible, abate interspecies competition and other issues that affect corridor function and herd health and viability.)
- The possibilities for mitigation as a tool to maintain the functionality of a corridor.
- The impacts of Chronic Wasting Disease on the functionality of a corridor, including comparative analysis of the health of migrating wildlife and non-migratory animals.
- Research related to the potential impact of human development and use inside low and medium areas of migration corridors.

Appendix H
State Trust Land

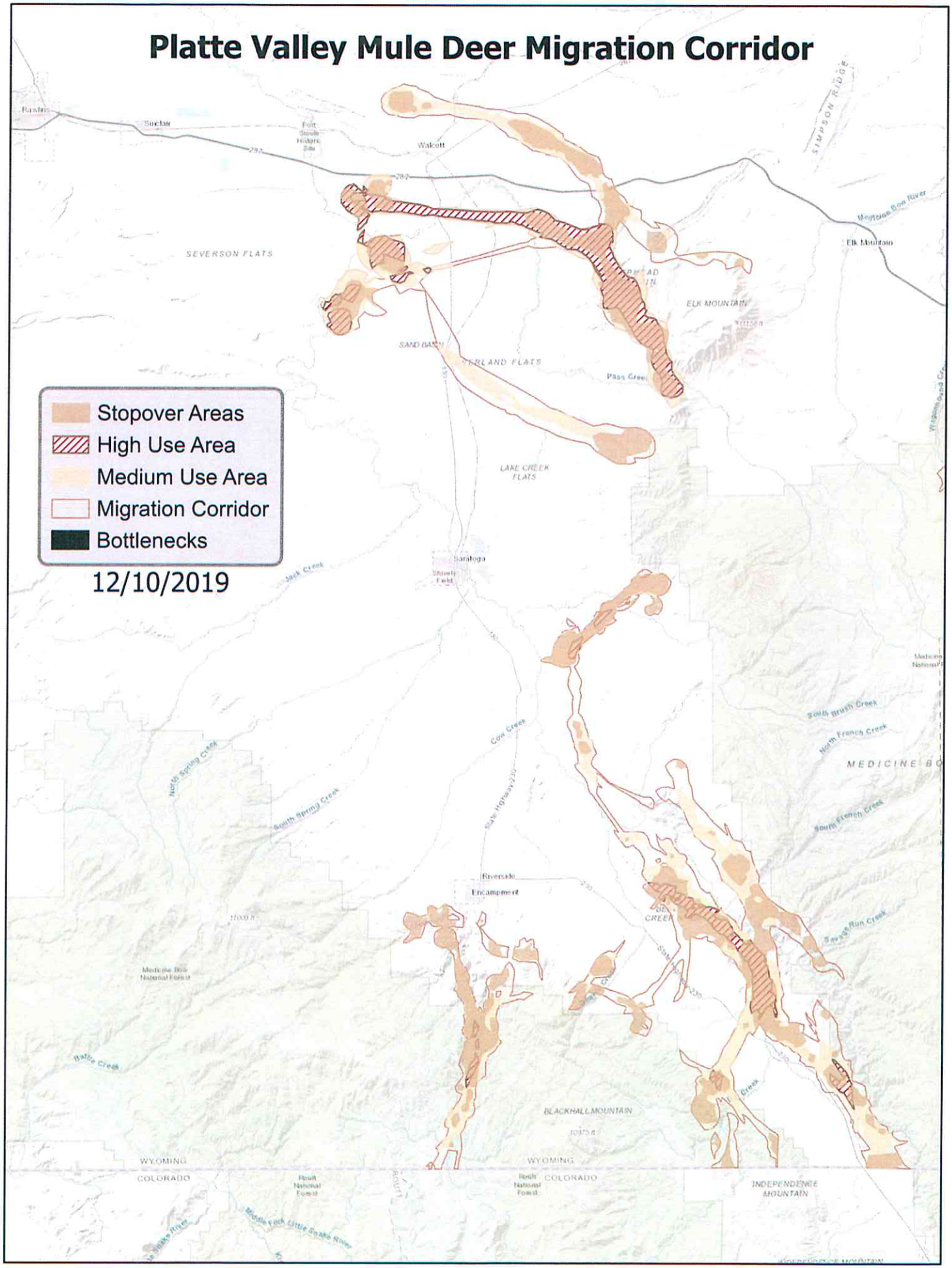
In fulfilling its constitutional and fiduciary duties (Wyo. Const. Article 18, Section 3), the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners may consult with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on a site-by-site basis to mitigate impacts to a designated migration corridor, including strategies to avoid bottleneck and stopover areas to maintain habitat functionality when considering activities on state trust land. The Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners has adopted the following stipulation:

This lease is issued subject to, and conditioned upon, lessee's acknowledgment and agreement that the parcel of land encompassed by this lease is located wholly or partially within an Ungulate Migration Corridor as designated by [the Governor.] Exploration and development activities shall be undertaken and managed as a controlled surface use. Prior to exploration and development, lessee is required to submit to WGFD a plan to protect and/or mitigate impacts to the migration corridor including strategies to avoid bottleneck and stopover areas. Plans must be approved by the Director, in consultation with the WGFD, before exploration and development activities can occur. All attempts should be made to avoid and minimize impacts to the surface in order to maintain habitat functionality within the ungulate migration corridor.

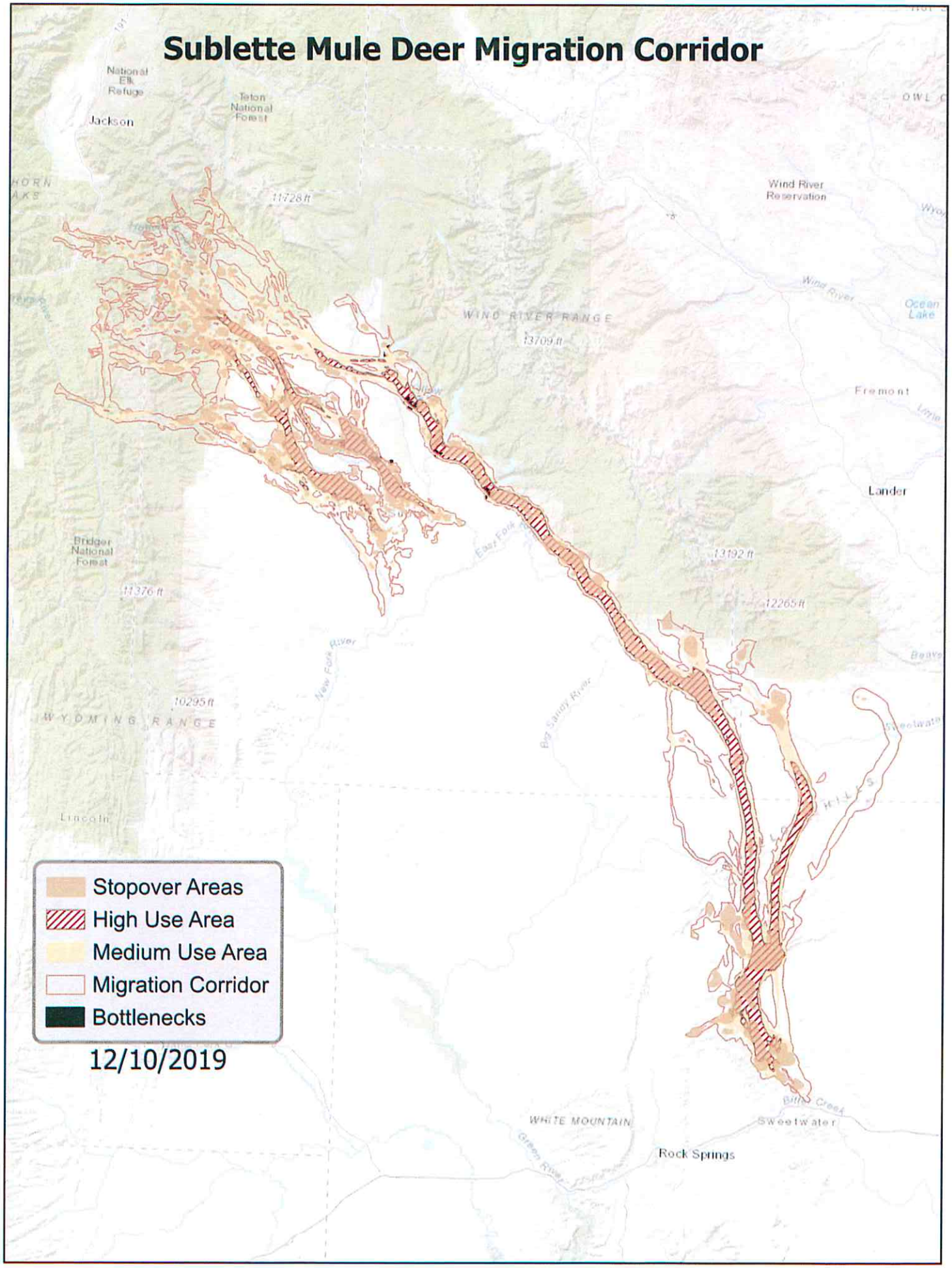
Baggs Mule Deer Migration Corridor

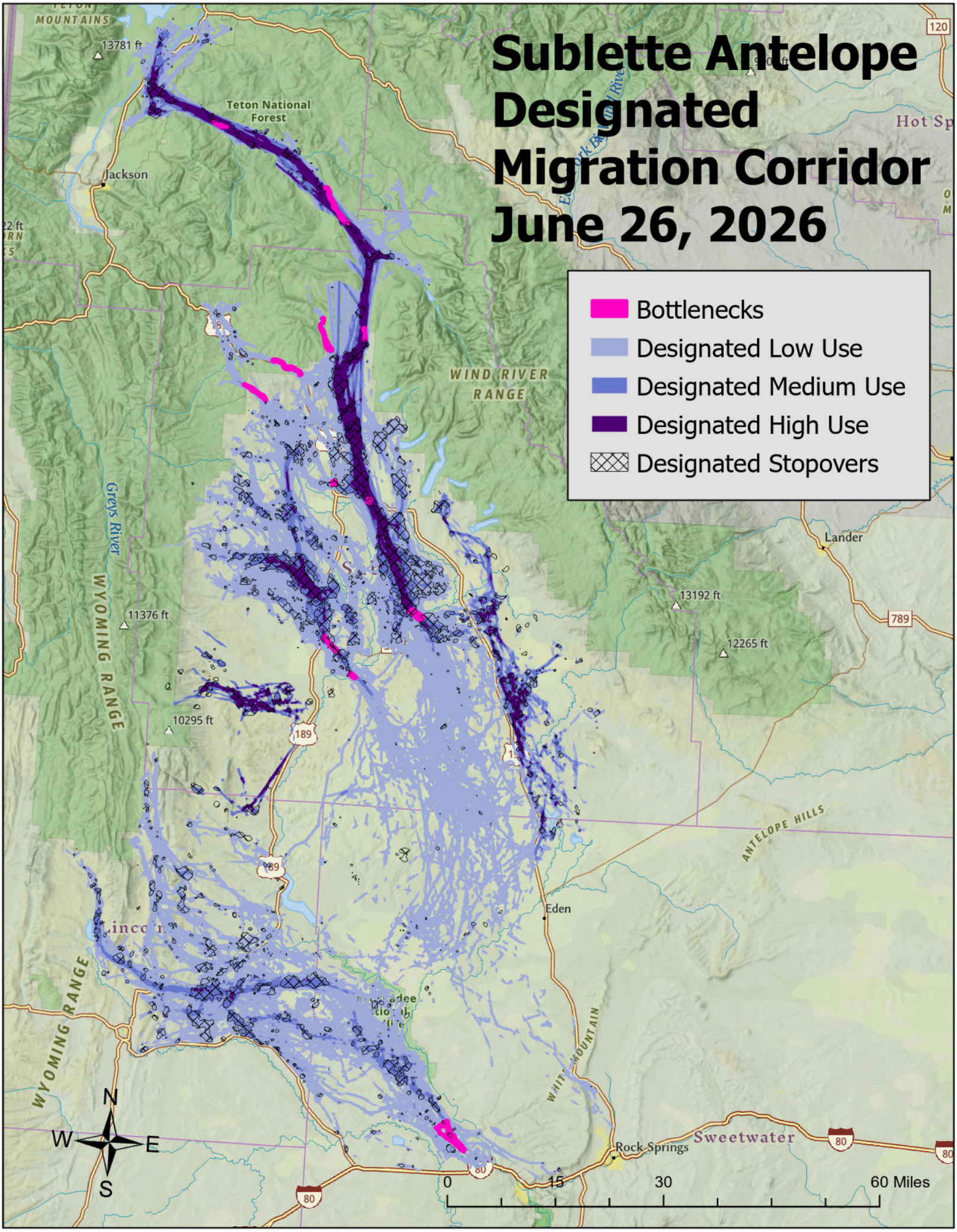


Platte Valley Mule Deer Migration Corridor



Sublette Mule Deer Migration Corridor




Sublette Antelope Designated Migration Corridor June 26, 2026
Bottlenecks
Designated Low Use
Designated Medium Use
Designated High Use
Designated Stopovers
Teton National Forest
Jackson
13781 ft
WIND RIVER RANGE
Greys River
WYOMING RANGE
11376 ft
10295 ft
Lander
13192 ft
12265 ft
ANTELOPE HILLS
Eden
Rock Springs
Sweetwater
WHITE MOUNTAIN
189
789
80
120
N
W
E
S
0
15
30
60 Miles