



Migration Corridor Conservation



Proposal Questions

Mission/History Of Organization

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation (WWF)'s mission is to deliver leadership in conservation for Wyoming's wildlife, hunters, anglers, & conservationists through policy, education, advocacy, & habitat projects. Founded in 1937, the Federation is the oldest and largest sportsmen's advocacy and conservation organization in the state of Wyoming. WWF envisions a Wyoming with thriving

JEDI Efforts and Impact

As an organization consisting of a staff that is 85% female, in an otherwise male dominated industry, we have worked diligently to lower barriers for other sportswomen interested in learning to hunt, fish, and become all around capable outdoorswomen. WWF recognizes the importance of breaking down the stereotypes and providing equal opportunities for women to

fish and wildlife populations on healthy, connected habitats on public and private lands and waters with plentiful opportunities to enjoy them. We nurture the next generation of conservationists through education programs. This vision is achieved by organizing and educating the public on issues affecting wildlife and habitat. WWF supports strong science-based policies to retain, restore, and reconnect wildlife habitats and sustainably funded wildlife management. With hunters and anglers who recognize both the cultural and conservation significance of Wyoming's landscapes this vision is brought to life.

Final Success

The conservation and preservation of 2.3 million acres of forested Wyoming public lands and waters, including big game migration corridors, native trout cold-water streams, hiking trails, fishing holes, camping sites, and prime hunting grounds, supports wildlife management and provides nutritious meat for families.

Location Details

participate, whether by offering female-specific gear, creating supportive communities, or providing educational resources. To reduce barriers to women interested in learning to hunt, WWF launched a women specific learn-to-hunt program thoughtfully named, "More Than Gatherers".

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation (WWF) is dedicated to conserving wildlife and their habitats across Wyoming, focusing on the northwest and central-west regions, including the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF). The BTNF spans mountain ranges, river valleys, glacial fields, and sagebrush plains, providing critical habitats for species like pronghorn antelope, mule deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, native trout, Greater Sage-Grouse, grizzly bears, and Canadian wolves. This biologically rich landscape is vital for sustaining these species and offers breathtaking beauty.

In 2025, the BTNF will revise its land use management plan, which will include WWF's stakeholder planning. WWF will also focus on vital migration corridors for big game animals. These corridors are essential for the animals' seasonal movement from lower to higher elevations and need further recognition and protection by Wyoming. Along these corridors are dangerous obstacles, such as highways, which cause thousands of wildlife-vehicle collisions each year. To help mitigate this, WWF advocates for additional wildlife crossings to ensure safer passage.

Wyoming is home to some of the longest, most intact big game migrations and the largest, most diverse ungulate populations in the U.S. These migrations require vast, uninterrupted landscapes, such as those in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and BTNF. The iconic migratory herds in this region are a national treasure and are among the most studied wildlife migrations globally. Conserving these corridors while eliminating barriers ensures healthy herds for future generations.

Two significant migration corridors of interest to WWF in this region are the Sublette Antelope migration corridor and the Wyoming Range Mule Deer migration corridor. Both are located near highways, and WWF is working to



Biodiversity in Project Area

Migration corridors designation and protection plays a critical role in enhancing the resiliency of wildlife populations by ensuring they can move freely between essential habitats, especially in response to changing environmental conditions. These corridors allow species to access food, water, and breeding grounds, supporting their survival and long-term viability. Additionally, the protection of migration corridors increases connectivity between fragmented landscapes, linking habitats to other protected lands and creating larger, more robust ecosystems. This connectivity not only supports wildlife movement but also helps strengthen the overall health of ecosystems, fostering resilience to climate change, habitat destruction, and other human-induced pressures.

By implementing sustainable practices and preserving natural ecosystems, WWF aims to create a more resilient environment that can better withstand the impacts of climate change. The Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) in northwest Wyoming is a vital ecosystem, home to a rich array of wildlife and offering world-class opportunities for hunting, fishing, skiing, camping, and more. However, as human pressures grow and new technologies emerge, the way we manage these lands must evolve. Currently, the forest service is considering a project that could allow e-bikes on Teton Pass trails and would expand this season onto others. Motorized use, including e-bikes, can go further, and can do so in less time, than standard mountain bikes and therefore have more potential to disrupt wildlife. With these overdue updates to the BTNF management plan WWF hopes to see a plan that encourages language that acknowledges and addresses concerns about mineral and energy development within critical habitats; recognize existing designated migration corridors as critical habitats and language to include future corridors as they are designated through the state process; and include provisions for historical trails and recreational access that includes keeping viewscapes undisturbed by development all of which will increase connectivity and support biodiversity.

Expected Economic & Recreational Impact

secure wildlife crossings in these areas, as well as other hotspots around the state. In 2024, WWF, in partnership with The Conservation Alliance and Sitka, secured \$15,000 for the Hwy 189 wildlife crossing, a critical project for Wyoming's mule deer herds. This crossing is one of the top 10 most critical wildlife crossings in the state, aiding the Wyoming Range mule deer herd and the Uinta mule deer herd.

Long-lasting conservation measures are crucial for maintaining healthy ecosystems, benefiting both wildlife and recreationists. By preserving habitats and ensuring biodiversity, these measures help protect animal species while also providing sustainable recreational opportunities including hunting and fishing.. This balance fosters a connection between people and nature, encouraging responsible recreation that supports the long-term health of the environment. Moreover, sustainable hunting and angling practices, fueled by healthy wildlife populations, can generate revenue from permits, licenses, and conservation efforts, contributing to funding for further conservation initiatives. Recreationally, the project would enhance opportunities for a broad range of outdoor activities. By maintaining intact ecosystems and accessible public lands, individuals would have more places to responsibly connect with nature and more opportunities to engage with the land and water. The success of the project would help ensure that future generations have access to these activities, preserving both the environment and outdoor traditions for years to come.

In addition to conserving acres of contiguous lands and waters, WWF organizes habitat enhancement projects that tangibly aid the health and biodiversity of an area. WWF has one habitat enhancement project slated for the GYE. More on-the-ground projects can be conducted with additional WWF capacity.

Strategy & Timeline For Final Success

Following the release of the Bridger-Teton National Forest assessment, WWF will engage with the U.S. Forest Service and build support through the BT Working Group and various sporting organizations. To foster better relationships and understanding, we will organize aerial or ground tours for decision-makers, giving them firsthand knowledge of the landscape. WWF will also prepare to defend plans released in late 2024 and 2025, including the Newcastle and Buffalo RMPs. Throughout this process, WWF will advocate for the best outcomes for wildlife, especially big game populations on public lands, through land use and resource management plans. WWF will collaborate with federal, state, and local stakeholders to plan, fund, and implement wildlife crossings in key locations across Wyoming, such as Highway 26 in Dubois, Highway 189 between Kemmerer and Evanston, and a portion of Interstate 80 at Halleck Ridge. The Highway 26 Dubois wildlife crossing is currently raising funds for the project, and WWF has submitted a support letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to secure federal funding. We also encourage sportsmen's organizations to contribute by writing support letters, or we can help them draft one. WWF has partnered with The Conservation Alliance and Sitka to secure \$15,000 for the Highway 189 crossing which is fully funded, but construction has not yet started. WWF is in regular communication with Wyoming's DOT, leadership, and Commission to monitor the project's timeline, progress, and any additional needs. This work will ensure that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Wyoming Department of Transportation are on schedule for construction to begin sooner rather than later. Other road systems will be of interest for wildlife crossings within the GYE and will require funding. For the Interstate 80 project, WWF is considering potential partners and will reach out to initiate collaboration. WWF will continue to participate in the Wyoming Wildlife and Roadway Implementation Initiative Team (WWRIT) to keep wildlife crossings a state priority and help secure funding. Through this initiative, WWF stays informed about the state's plans and offers support for the construction of wildlife crossings at key

Key Decision Makers

WWF will continue to grow and build upon existing relationships and be a resource to legislators and their constituents. As much as possible WWF will share information and education in a targeted way to move good wildlife policy forward. WWF's ultimate goal is to influence decision makers to be reasonable, thoughtful, solution-oriented, and educated elected officials who will be realistic and will balance a healthy economy with a healthy ecosystem. WWF desires a legislative body that aligns with our sporting heritage and values and will work with the organization into the future to craft quality statutes and work from a standpoint of deep understanding of conservation issues. In addition, the WWF has a solid connection with the Freedom Caucus leadership (a very conservative group of legislators) which is quite useful in our state. WWF is uniquely positioned to adjust the approach to communicate effectively with decision makers on both sides of the aisle.

WWF works directly with the Wyoming Governor's office and in Governor Gordon's two remaining years in office sees the opportunity to capitalize on the current Executive Order and recognize additional migration corridors. This presents a constraint, but also a window of opportunity to identify or designate as many corridors as possible during the current governorship. WWF would like to see this executive order extend into the next administration.

WWF is engaged with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission through direct relationships with commissioners and attendance at commission meetings that take place across the state of Wyoming. In doing so, WWF advocates for responsible management of Wyoming's wildlife through policy, including regulations for hunting and fishing, licenses and enforcement of regulations. WWF works with a myriad of diverse stakeholders and decision makers from the Forest Service local employees to the federal level of the US Department of Agriculture.



collision hotspots. Our approach will include considering local community dynamics, using storytelling to raise awareness, and directly and indirectly supporting the financing of wildlife crossing projects. The ultimate conservation goal is to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, which equates to the protection of thousands of big game animals.

Executive Order 2020-1, Wyoming Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection outlines the state's current policy on migration corridors. However, an executive order is not permanent. WWF will advocate for the designation of the Sublette Antelope and Wyoming Range Mule Deer migration corridors through this process. We will also work to ensure that management prescriptions for already-designated migration corridors are upheld and protected to preserve their functionality. Additionally, WWF will oppose any legislative bills that threaten the protection and conservation of migration corridors by collaborating with Wyoming's Congressional delegation, working with our State Action Coalition lobbyist firm, Watershed Results, in Washington, D.C., and utilizing the National Wildlife Federation's lobbyist. At the federal level, WWF will advocate for financial incentive programs for ranchers and working lands that host big game migration corridors. These programs help maintain working lands, reduce habitat fragmentation, foster local support for conservation designations, and are likely to face challenges in the coming years.

Elevate Voices

Hunting has long been perceived as a male-dominated sport and industry, rooted in historical traditions that often tied men to roles as hunters and providers. Over the centuries, societal norms have reinforced the idea that hunting is primarily a masculine pursuit, with the industry itself—ranging from equipment manufacturers to hunting guides and influencers—largely catering to men. This gendered dynamic is evident not only in the demographics of participants but also in the marketing strategies that target men as the primary consumers of hunting-related products and experiences. Despite growing efforts to encourage inclusivity and diversity in recent years, there are still barriers that exist for women who are interested in getting involved in hunting. In an effort to reduce barriers, WWF has developed a fully immersive learn to hunt program for women called More Than Gatherers. This program not only includes a full certification in hunter education but also a deep dive into hunting skills, philosophies, wildlife conservation, community building and good. More Than Gatherers creates a safe space to

Measurable On-Ground Outcomes

Big game migration corridors recognition by the state of Wyoming - see one identified corridor and one corridor designation within 2025. In addition, see the process begin for another designated corridor.
Land Use Planning - Submit scientific and technical comments to the US Forest Service aimed at the overall goal of conserving 2.3 million acres of land and water through the Bridger-Teton National Forest revision.
Wildlife crossings - see two wildlife crossing structures begin construction
Build advocates at Wyoming Legislature. Being active and present at the Wyoming legislature allows WWF to have a voice in how to best manage for the benefit of wildlife, natural resources, and habitat.



be a beginner, curious learner and a member of an ever-growing community of women who have become interested in hunting in their adult years. This program was planned and taught by an all female cast from all over the state of Wyoming.

TCA Funding Plan

One of the benefits of working with partners, such as The Conservation Alliance, is to showcase how working together we achieve quality, long lasting conservation outcomes. This work isn't done with just one partner, but rather with partners who together can make quality differences for our missions and quality of life for all. The outcomes of our joint endeavors are stronger for the benefit of our environment, wildlife, and outdoor opportunities. Thank you for your partnership, for your commitment to environmental initiatives, and for choosing Wyoming as a state that you work in. Wyoming is one of the best biologically rich and wildlife viable states in the lower 48, but threats continue and maintaining what we have is vital.

How long it took to complete application

Confidential Items

Other Relevant Application Details

