

JMH CAP Record of Decision

JMH CAP FACTS Big Game

BACKGROUND:

A key feature of the plan is the “connectivity area,” identified to facilitate migration between key ranges (crucial winter and parturition) for elk and mule deer. The connectivity area is paramount to sustaining the elk and mule deer herds.

The crucial winter range for mule deer, elk, and antelope covers approximately 40 percent of the JMH CAP area. Most of the parturition (calving and/or fawning) ranges overlap with the winter ranges.

SPECIFICS:

- Protection of key wildlife habitat is provided through appropriate mitigation, such as seasonal restrictions, habitat protection, and avoidance.

Big Game Habitat Use and Size

Common and Scientific Name	Habitat Use in Planning Area (acres)	WGFD Herd Unit and Size (million acres)	WGFD Herd Unit in Planning Area (acres)	WGFD Population Objective ¹	2002 WGFD Population Estimate
Mule Deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>)	Crucial winter range = 132,900	Steamboat = 2.6	Steamboat = 563,256	Steamboat = 4,000	Steamboat = 3,100
	Parturition = 36,300	South Wind River = 1.4	South Wind River = 59,074	South Wind River = 13,000	South Wind River = 9,600
Rocky Mountain Elk (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	Crucial winter range = 194,900	Steamboat = 2.6	Steamboat = 622,330	Steamboat ² = 1,200	Steamboat ² = 1,300
	Parturition = 91,500				
Pronghorn Antelope (<i>Antilocapra Americana</i>)	Crucial winter range = 81,500	Red Desert = 2.2	Red Desert = 79,700	Sublette = 48,000	Sublette Herd = 44,700
		Sublette = 6.7	Sublette = 542,630	Red Desert = 15,000	Red Desert = appx. 15,000
Moose (<i>Alces alces</i>)	Migrant	Lander = 2.7	Lander = 55,100	Lander = 450	Lander = 300

¹Population objectives are for entire herd unit area.

²Herd objective was reevaluated and changed from 500 in 2002.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED:

Connectivity Area: A key wildlife habitat area that connects and includes crucial big game habitats. The area includes topographic relief for escape cover, important year-round forage, crucial winter range, and birthing areas for a majority of the deer and elk

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populations. The area allows for free movement of animals among the various habitat components and provides an important migratory corridor throughout the year.

Crucial Winter Range: A particular range or habitat component which is the determining factor in a population's ability to maintain and reproduce itself at a certain level (theoretically at or above the population objective) over the long term. Example: The total crucial winter range for an elk herd unit should be available, relatively intact and winter the major part of the objective population in adequate body condition 8 out of 10 years.

Herd Unit: A geographically designated area for a particular big game herd. This area is generally a biologically distinct unit (i.e., rarely inter-breeds with animals from other herds).

Parturition Range: Birthing areas commonly used by more than a few female members of a population. This is usually a designated area that supports the majority of females of a big game herd for birthing activities.

Population Estimate: A scientifically determined estimate of the number of animals in a particular area.

Population Objective: A desired population total designated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. This number should be within the ability of the land to support the herd taking into consideration all the other competing land uses.