

September 4, 2025

Dear Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioners:

The four undersigned conservation organizations support the designation of the entire **Sublette Antelope Migration Corridor, including the East of Farson and Red Desert segments.**

In the bad winter of 2022-23, animals that traveled further south towards I-80, including through the East of Farson and Red Desert segments, generally survived, while those that remained on the winter ranges around Pinedale on the Mesa/Anticline died. We are unable to control the weather, or predict the next disease outbreak, but we can control the location and intensity of development that impact how easily these animals reach their winter range – for instance by avoiding another Sweetwater Solar project where animals were cut off from migratory routes and forced onto a busy highway with deadly results. Designation under Executive Order 2020-1 is the only tool currently available to the State of Wyoming that allows managers to site projects outside of the most valuable migratory habitat. Without designation, any siting recommendations are voluntary.

Since the inception of the Wyoming Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection Executive Order, the Commission has thus far only “identified” the Sublette Antelope and Wind River Mule Deer corridors. The three currently designated mule deer corridors were grandfathered in based on the WGF Commission's prior decisions. Now that the Sublette Antelope corridor is identified and is partially recommended for designation at your upcoming meeting, **we ask that you vote to designate this unique and important corridor in full.** The Sublette Pronghorn herd has been extensively studied, boasting one of, if not the most extensive dataset available for any migratory herd. Designating only select portions of the identified corridor, as delineated by the Department's collar data, jeopardizes the integrity of the scientifically based decision process, and could weaken the effectiveness and longevity of the Executive Order.

The Executive Order lays out the process for public and special interest participation in corridor designation. If you choose to recommend designation, the Governor appoints representatives to a local Area Working Group to consider the social and economic impacts of designation and provide him with additional corridor-specific recommendations. The working group is not charged with making decisions in the interest of wildlife but is responsible for weighing the considerations surrounding the Commission's recommendation, the needs of wildlife, and the community impacts. We ask that your recommendation serve the long-term viability of the Sublette antelope herd and adhere to the Department's mission of “conserving, enhancing and protecting Wyoming's exceptional fish and wildlife resources and the habitats that support them.”

We value the hard work Department staff and the Commission have invested in the corridor identification and designation process. The Risk Assessment and Threat Evaluation make clear that we need to take action to maintain the integrity of Wyoming's greatest pronghorn antelope herd. The Sublette Pronghorn Antelope herd is remarkable; we owe it to future generations of Wyomingites to take reasonable steps to ensure it remains viable. **We reiterate our support for the designation of the entire Sublette Antelope Migration Corridor** and are grateful for the chance to offer feedback, suggestions, and the opportunity to participate in future working groups.

Respectfully,

- Nick Dobric, The Wilderness Society – ndobric@twc.org
- Meghan Riley, Wyoming Outdoor Council – meghan@wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org
- Renee Seidler, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation – rseidler@jhwildlife.org
- Jared Baecker, Greater Yellowstone Coalition - jbaecker@greateryellowstone.org