

September 27, 2016

Mr. Doug Brimeyer
Jackson/Pinedale Wildlife Management Coordinator
Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Jackson, WY

Dear Mr. Brimeyer,

Subject: Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance comments on Sublette mule deer migration corridor

Thank you for sharing the memo (dated July 25, 2016) identifying information analyzed to document migration corridors for the Sublette mule deer herd and providing us an opportunity to comment on this. We understand that there is a meeting of interested stakeholders on September 30, 2016. Unfortunately, we will be unable to attend this meeting, but we remain keen on staying involved in future discussions of this topic.

We wholeheartedly support the science-based designation of the Sublette mule deer migration corridors. This information is a crucial first step toward ultimately protecting the habitat and corridor to ensure that our mule deer herd's migrations and populations are effectively conserved. We support the use of data from past research efforts and look forward to next steps, as per the Department's Migration Strategy.

We raise two minor issues with a view to constructively improving the information and designation of this migration corridor. First, we would appreciate more explicit information regarding how individual level utilization distributions were converted into population level corridors. Was the method followed the same as in Sawyer et al 2009? Sawyer et al designated corridors used by >10% of the sampled deer population. Your present proposal says that "single animal movements" were excluded. These statements are not completely clear. Explicitly stating the criteria or cutoff used to determine the population level route would be helpful. Further, doing so would allow future modification as new data and research become available. Second, it appears from Figure 2, that certain migration corridors are not continuous. We recognize that this is likely a result of the statistical process used to delineate a population level corridor.

We also fully support the identification of stopover sites and the adaptive nature of identifying future corridors as more data become available.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on your migration corridor designation for Sublette mule deer. We look forward to continued productive conversations with your staff to ensure that Wyoming Game and Fish Department uses the best science in their management decisions.

Sincerely,



Siva Sundaresan
Conservation Director