

Wildlife Performance Goals
Talking Points

- Initial focus on Atlantic Rim big game monitoring has been mule deer.
- We would like to develop pronghorn herd monitoring in coordination with Continental Divide / Creston monitoring and development.
- Elk crucial winter range is present within the Atlantic Rim area, but is outside of current development. .

Item	Performance Goal
Migration Routes	maintain functional migration routes through or around development areas

Mule Deer

- Functional Migration Routes

Triggers for mule deer migration route adaptive management

- Detection of route alteration from on-going collaring studies
- Changes in population based on Game and Fish annual studies (JCRs) and/or best available science.
- Abandonment of existing migration routes
- New routes established (identified by long range monitoring)
- Change in use / rate of movement in migration routes (identified by long range monitoring)

The big game monitoring and mitigation Team will need to meet periodically to discuss future monitoring, current conditions and adaptive management opportunities / needs for mule deer migration routes. The big game group will assess the use of migration routes and determine adaptive management measures that can be used to mitigate adverse effects.

Item	Performance Goal
Big Game Crucial Winter Range	provide an adequate amount of suitable, undisturbed crucial winter range for big game animals

- “Adequate amount of crucial winter range”:

Triggers

- Habitat evaluations
- Population trends

Game and Fish annual Job Completion Reports including herd number and fawn recruitment. Reproduction success is equal to or better than average reproduction 8 out of 10 years.

Concern: the population dynamics of the Baggs Mule Deer herd unit will mask adverse population trends from Atlantic Rim development due to the size of the herd unit. Therefore adverse trends may not be detected in as timely manner as desired. Would like to pick up on trend changes within the first year. Also negative impacts to herd number from activities outside the Atlantic Rim area could result in false interpretation of Atlantic Rim development.

Item	Performance Goal
Sage and Sharp-Tailed Grouse	provide well-dispersed sage-grouse breeding, nesting, brood rearing, and winter habitat

- The current State of Wyoming designated sage-grouse core areas do not include the Atlantic Rim area.
- No modifications or changes to the monitoring and adaptive management activities at Atlantic Rim
- “Well dispersed”

Maintaining grouse and grouse habitat distribution though out the project area both functionally and spatially. Identify sink and source habitats / areas and ensure source habitat functionality is maintained.

Triggers

- Population Monitoring*

Lek counts and surveys Habitat monitoring

The sage-grouse monitoring and mitigation Team will need to meet periodically

Item	Performance Goal
Shrub-Dependent Song Birds	assure occupied habitat for shrub-dependent song birds is well distributed throughout the project area

- Initiated a change in the survey method in 2010. Developed a survey protocol using the GRID method in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and WyG&F.
- Conducted third annual BBS survey using established routes and monitoring stops.
- 2010 BBS report received in July, 2010. Definitions
- Sufficient habitat:

The area has all the characteristics that an individual species needs to maintain viable populations of that species.

- Well-distributed:

Consistent with the current natural arrangement in the area as reflected by the base line data.

- Occupied habitat:

presence of native successfully reproducing song birds during the breeding season (courtship through pre-migration staging).

Triggers

- Trend from habitat specialists to habitat generalists.

Conduct annual surveys. When a shift in bird species is detected review activities and development approved within the affected area and implement adaptive management and new / or additional BMPs as appropriate.

- Change in location of species detected.

When a change in species location is detected review activities within the affected area and implement adaptive management and new /or additional BMPs as appropriate.

- Overall song bird population trends from surveys.