



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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May 8, 2025

WER 15374.00

Bridger-Teton National Forest

Shadow Mountain Habitat Enhancement

Teton County

Todd Stiles

District Ranger

Bridger-Teton National Forest

Jackson Ranger District

PO Box 1689

Jackson, WY 83001

Dear Mr. Stiles,

The staff of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the Scoping Letter for the Shadow Mountain Habitat Enhancement Project in Teton County. The Department is statutorily charged with managing and protecting all Wyoming wildlife (W.S. 23-1-103). Pursuant to our mission, we offer the following comments for your consideration.

The Department supports the proposed Shadow Mountain Habitat Enhancement project given the stated goal to improve wildlife habitat. As noted in the Scoping Letter, the project area provides habitat for a variety of big game species, including elk, mule deer, moose, a number of Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and is within the Identified Upper Wind River Mule Deer Migration Corridor. The proposed treatments, such as prescribed fire and mechanical thinning, will enhance forage quality, promote aspen regeneration, and create a diversity of habitat conditions that benefit these species. The Department also appreciates the wildlife-related resource protection measures integrated into the Proposed Action including but not limited to commitment to avoid treatments during the mule deer migration periods.

The Department requests coordination for any planned activities during hunting season so that we can provide the public and outfitters with information if necessary. In addition to coordination, we recommend the following to ensure impacts to hunters are minimized:

- Avoid project activities from September 15-October 25, the peak big game hunting period to the extent possible.
- Maintain access for hunters to key areas, such as Forest Road 30350 and Forest Road 30310, during the peak big game hunting period.

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Lastly, the Department appreciates the commitment to minimize adverse impacts to nesting birds. We recommend adding language to make clear adequate surveys are being completed to protect earlier nesting migratory birds when applicable and that raptor nest surveys will be completed prior to treatments occurring during the raptor nesting season.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ross Crandall, Habitat Protection Biologist, at (307) 367-5615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Schultz", with a stylized, flowing script.

Will Schultz
Habitat Protection Supervisor

WS/rc/ch

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chris Wichmann, Wyoming Department of Agriculture