



# FACT SHEET

## Tell Wyoming's Leaders to Protect Our Migrating Wildlife

*Prepared by the Wyoming Outdoor Council*

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More than 1 million federal mineral acres across Wyoming are up for grabs in the Bureau of Land Management's September and December oil and gas lease sales. **A small fraction of those acres overlap the Red Desert to Hoback mule deer migration corridor and threaten its functionality.**

Both Sweetwater and Teton counties — home to the southern and northern portions of the corridor — have asked the BLM to defer these leases, but the BLM only appears willing to listen to Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

**We need you to join us in urging Gov. Mead and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to stand up to the BLM** and ask that it defer leases for sale in the migration corridor, along with others in crucial wintering habitat statewide — **a necessary action that does not harm an industry that already has filed 10,000 applications to drill across the state.**

### What to say

- Research on Wyoming's big game migrations has shown that animals avoid energy development. Oil and gas infrastructure poses risks to choking off the ancient migration routes that big game depend on for survival. **The best way to assure continued functionality of these corridors is to not lease inside them.**
- The BLM asserts that "lease notices" attached to these parcels ensures that operators will cooperate with wildlife officials to minimize negative impacts. But this assertion is incorrect. Only "lease stipulations" provide legal authority to halt or significantly modify operations if necessary to protect migrating wildlife. **Wyoming's leadership in mule deer migration research positions us well to craft these important stipulations.**
- **Deferring these leases** (a small fraction of the total oil and gas lease acreage for sale) **will not hurt Wyoming's oil and gas industry.** There are already 10,000 pending applications to drill on public lands in Wyoming. Migration corridors are worth defending.

Sometimes bureaucracies get stuck even when the path forward seems obvious — **and that's where the power of our collective voices can make all the difference.** Our culture and pride in Wyoming is rooted in our shared values for healthy wildlife, clean air and water, and accessible public lands. Thank you for your dedication to protecting a healthy Wyoming for future generations!