

Summary of Corridors Proposed by States under Secretarial Order 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors

by Elizabeth Fairbank and Grace Stonecipher
The Center for Large Landscape Conservation

On February 9, 2018, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3362 (SO 3362): Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors (Appendix A).¹ Focused on the 11 Western states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming), SO 3362 directs relevant federal bureaus to work with State, tribal, and territorial agencies to enhance and restore migration corridors and winter range habitat for big-game species such as elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope on federal lands. State wildlife agencies were asked to identify priority corridors and additional research needs as part of a state action plan.

On October 23, 2018, all State Action Plans were made publicly available as part of a Request for Proposals put out by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.² Funded by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and ConocoPhillips, the program makes \$2.7 Million available to conserve or restore habitat in state priority corridor areas.

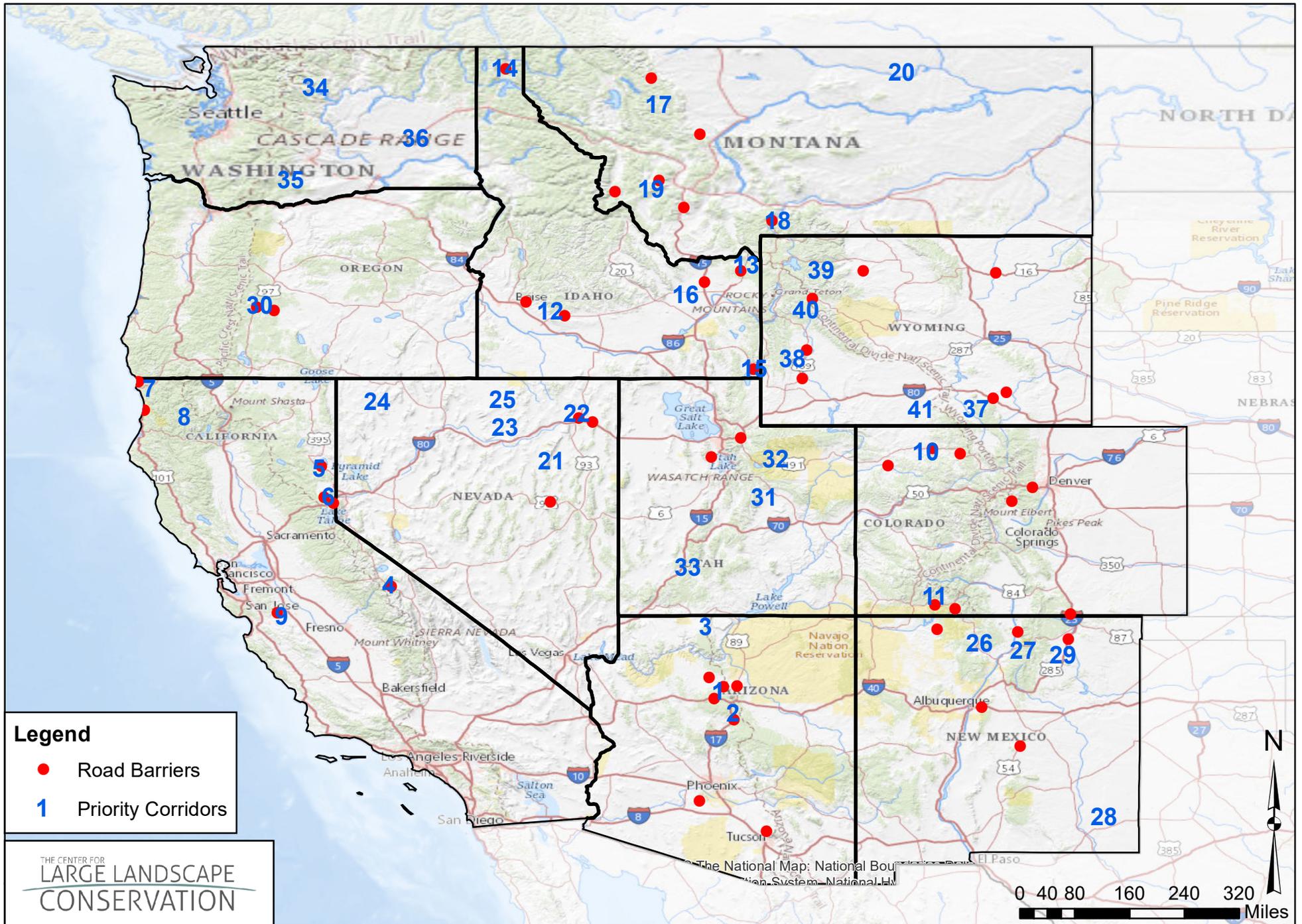
Roads were mentioned in all State Action Plans as being major barriers to wildlife movement in focal areas. Some states reported specific locations for potential crossing structures or other mitigation projects, while others mentioned roads more generally.

The map on the following page shows the general locations of the priority areas put forward by states. The map also indicates roads of concern for wildlife movement within the state. Note that the location of the red dots is just an approximation to highlight the mention of that road; it does not necessarily indicate intended mitigation action in that location.

¹ https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so_3362_migration.pdf

² <https://www.nfwf.org/westernmigrations/Pages/state-action-plans.aspx>

Summary of State Corridor Priorities in Response to SO 3362



SO 3362 “Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors”: State Priority Corridor Locations

ARIZONA

1. Grand Canyon to Prescott Pronghorn Corridor Complex
2. I-17 from Camp Verde to Flagstaff Corridor
3. Paunsaugunt- Kaibab Plateau Corridor

CALIFORNIA

4. Highway 203 to Lake Crowley
5. Mule Deer Doyle Herd
6. Mule Deer Loyaltan-Truckee Herd
7. Roosevelt Elk North Coast – Del Norte
8. Roosevelt Elk North Coast Humboldt
9. Tule Elk San Lusi Reservoir

COLORADO

10. Bears Ears and White River Landscape
11. San Juan Basin

IDAHO

12. Smoky Boise Complex
13. US 20/SH87 Complex
14. US 95 McArthur Lake
15. US 30 Rocky Point
16. I15 – Market Lake to Montana border

MONTANA

17. Continental Divide to Rocky Mountain Front East
18. Yellowstone Nat'l Park to Paradise Valley
19. Pintler Range to Big Hole, Bitterroot, and Clark Fork Watersheds
20. Canadian Border to Fort Peck Reservoir

NEVADA

21. Mule Deer Migration Nevada Management Area 10

22. Mule Deer Migration Nevada Management Area 7
23. Mule Deer Migration Nevada Management Area 6
24. Pronghorn Migration Game Management Areas 1-3
25. Pronghorn Migration Game Management Areas 6-7

NEW MEXICO

26. Northcentral landscape
27. Northern Sangre de Cristo landscape
28. Southeastern NM landscape
29. I-25 corridor from Las Vegas, NM to the Colorado border

OREGON

30. Highway 97

UTAH

31. Miller Creek Restoration Area
32. Cockey Hollow Restoration Area
33. Little Bear Valley Restoration Area

WASHINGTON

34. East Slope Cascades
35. East Columbia Gorge
36. Columbia Plateau

WYOMING

37. Platte Valley Mule Deer Herd
38. Wyoming Range Mule Deer Herd
39. Dubois Mule Deer Herd
40. Sublette Mule Deer Herd
41. Baggs Mule Deer Herd

Roads Mentioned as Barriers in State Focal Areas/Research Priorities under SO 3362

ARIZONA

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
I-40	Pronghorn, elk, mule deer	Grand Canyon to Prescott Pronghorn Corridor Complex- Appendix B has map showing proposed crossing structure locations
I-17	Elk, mule deer	Camp Verde to Flagstaff Corridor- Appendix B has map showing proposed crossing structure locations
US 89	pronghorn	Grand Canyon to Prescott Pronghorn Corridor Complex
SR 64	pronghorn	Grand Canyon to Prescott Pronghorn Corridor Complex
US 180	pronghorn	Grand Canyon to Prescott Pronghorn Corridor Complex- North of Flagstaff
New I-11 Corridor	Mule deer	Across state in new interstate corridor-some maps included in this section (research priorities).
SR 77	Mule deer-crossing structure built but need radio-collar monitoring for effectiveness of connecting populations at landscape scale.	Between Catalina and Tortolita mountains.

CALIFORNIA

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
US 395	Mule deer	Mono Ecoregion + Sierra Nevada Ecoregion. 395 from SR203 to Crowley Lake + from Reno, NV and Susanville, CA
Highway 89	Mule deer	Sierra Nevada Ecoregion between Lake Tahoe and Sierraville
I-80	Mule deer	Sierra Nevada Ecoregion from Donner Summit, CA to Verdi, NV.
US 101	Roosevelt Elk	Northern California Coast Ecoregion (especially high conflict MP 20-46 + MP 100-137)
CA 152	Tule Elk	Central Valley and Sierra Nevada Province

COLORADO

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
US 40	Elk and mule deer	Bears Ears and White river herd mgmt. areas
State Highway 14	Elk and mule deer	Bears Ears and White river herd mgmt. areas
State Highway 64	Elk and mule deer	Bears Ears and White river herd mgmt. areas
Hwy 160	Elk and mule deer	San Juan Basin
Hwy 84	Elk and mule deer	San Juan Basin
I-70	Mule deer	Morrison exit through Floyd Hill
Hwy 285	Mule deer	Kenosha Pass/Red Hill
I-25	Mule deer and elk	Raton pass, between Trinidad and NM state line.

IDAHO

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
US-20	Multiple species	Smokey-Boise Complex- Cat Creek Summit to Hill City + US 20/SH87 Complex- Ashton to MT State Line
US-95	Multiple species	US 95 McArthur Lake Area- Elmira to Naples
US-30	Mule deer	US 30 Rocky Point Area- MP 443-447
I-15	Multiple species	I-15 Area- Market Lake to MT Border
State Highway 21	Mule deer	Overpass to be constructed at MP 19.32 in 2021

MONTANA

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
US-2	Multiple species	Continental Divide to Rocky Mountain East Front
MT-200	Multiple species	Continental Divide to Rocky Mountain East Front
US-89	Multiple species	Yellowstone National Park to Paradise Valley
I-15	Multiple species	Anaconda range to Big Hole Area-Bitterroot and Upper Clark Fork Watersheds
Highway 1	Multiple species	Multiple species Anaconda range to Big Hole Area-Bitterroot and Upper Clark Fork Watersheds
Highway 93	Multiple species	Anaconda range to Big Hole Area-Bitterroot and Upper Clark Fork Watersheds

NEVADA

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
US-50	Mule deer	Corridor #1-Northeast NV-NV mgmt. area 10- Little Antelope Summit
US-93	Mule deer	Corridor #2-Northeast NV-Elko County-NV mgmt. area 7 –North of Wells, NV *some mitigation done
I-80	Mule deer	Corridor #2-Northeast NV-Elko County-NV mgmt. area 7- North Pequop Range *some mitigation done

NEW MEXICO

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
US-64	Mule deer and elk	North-central Landscape- Chama to Farmington
NM-522	Multiple species	Northern Sangre de Cristo landscape
I-25	Pronghorn	I-25 corridor from Las Vegas, NM to the Colorado border
I-40	Mule deer	North-central Landscape- Tijeras Canyon (fencing added to existing structures)
US-54	Mule deer	North-central Landscape -North of Corona (fencing added)

OREGON

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
US-97	Mule deer	Southcentral Oregon *mitigation project proposed
State Highway 31	Mule deer	Southcentral Oregon *mitigation project proposed

UTAH

State Highway 73	Mule deer	Lake Mountains Migration Corridor-between City of Eagle Mountain and Fairfield
I-80	Mule deer	Chalk Creek/Camas Units-Interstate east of Park City

WASHINGTON

Washington doesn't list specific roads but does list roads as a threat throughout priority areas....
--

WYOMING

Highway/road:	Species affected:	Location:
I-80	Multiple species	Platte Valley
US-30	Multiple species	Platte Valley
Highway 189	Mule deer + Pronghorn	Wyoming Range Mule deer-Dry piney creek area (between LaBarge Kemmerer) + North of Marbleton for Sublette Pronghorn
US 26/287	Multiple species	Dubois mule deer- MP 45-75
US-120	pronghorn	Carter Mountain Pronghorn
I-90	Mule deer	Between Buffalo and Gillette

Appendix A

ORDER NO. 3362

Subject: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors

Sec. 1 Purpose. This Order directs appropriate bureaus within the Department of the Interior (Department) to work in close partnership with the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming to enhance and improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat on Federal lands under the management jurisdiction of this Department in a way that recognizes state authority to conserve and manage big-game species and respects private property rights. Through scientific endeavors and land management actions, wildlife such as Rocky Mountain Elk (elk), Mule Deer (deer), Pronghorn Antelope (pronghorn), and a host of other species will benefit. Additionally, this Order seeks to expand opportunities for big-game hunting by improving priority habitats to assist states in their efforts to increase and maintain sustainable big game populations across western states.

Sec. 2 Authorities. This Order is issued under the authority of section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended, as well as the Department's land and resource management authorities, including the following:

- a. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1701, *et seq.*;
- b. U.S. Geological Survey Organic Act, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 31, *et seq.*;
- c. National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*; and
- d. National Park Service Organic Act of 1916, as amended, 54 U.S.C. 100101, *et seq.*

Sec. 3 Background. The West was officially “settled” long ago, but land use changes continue to occur throughout the western landscape today. Human populations grow at increasing rates with population movements from east and west coast states into the interior West. In many areas, development to accommodate the expanding population has occurred in important winter habitat and migration corridors for elk, deer, and pronghorn. Additionally, changes have occurred across large swaths of land not impacted by residential development. The habitat quality and value of these areas crucial to western big-game populations are often degraded or declining.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the largest land manager in the United States (U.S.) with more than 245 million acres of public land under its purview, much of which is found in Western States. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Park Service (NPS) also manage a considerable amount of public land on behalf of the American people in the West. Beyond land management responsibilities, the Department has strong scientific capabilities in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that can be deployed to assist State wildlife agencies and Federal land managers. Collectively, the appropriate bureaus within the Department have an opportunity to serve in a leadership role and take the initiative to work closely with Western States on their priorities and objectives as they relate to big-game winter range and migration corridors on lands managed by the Department.

Consistent with the American conservation ethic, ultimately it is crucial that the Department take action to harmonize State fish and game management and Federal land management of big-game winter range and corridors. On lands within these important areas, if landowners are interested and willing, conservation may occur through voluntary agreements.

Robust and sustainable elk, deer, and pronghorn populations contribute greatly to the economy and well-being of communities across the West. In fact, hunters and tourists travel to Western States from across our Nation and beyond to pursue and enjoy this wildlife. In doing so, they spend billions of dollars at large and small businesses that are crucial to State and local economies. We have a responsibility as a Department with large landholdings to be a collaborative neighbor and steward of the resources held in trust.

Accordingly, the Department will work with our State partners and others to conserve and/or improve priority western big-game winter range and migration corridors in sagebrush ecosystems and in other ecotypes as necessary. This Order focuses on the Western States of: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. These States generally have expansive public lands with established sagebrush landscapes along with robust big-game herds that are highly valued by hunters and tourists throughout the Nation.

The Department has broad responsibilities to manage Federal lands, waters, and resources for public benefit, including managing habitat to support fish, wildlife, and other resources. Secretary's Order 3356, "Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories," (SO 3356) was issued on September 15, 2017. SO 3356 primarily focused on physical access to lands for recreational activities, particularly hunting and fishing. This Order is focused on providing access to big game animals by providing direction regarding land management actions to improve habitat quality for big-game populations that could help ensure robust big-game populations continue to exist. Further, SO 3356 includes a number of directives related to working with States and using the best available science to inform development of guidelines, including directing relevant bureaus to:

- a. Collaborate with State, tribal, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies to attain or sustain State, tribal, and territorial wildlife population goals during the Department's land management planning and implementation, including prioritizing active habitat management

projects and funding that contributes to achieving wildlife population objectives, particularly for wildlife that is hunted or fished, and identifying additional ways to include or delegate to States habitat management work on Federal lands;

b. Work cooperatively with State, tribal, and territorial wildlife agencies to enhance State, tribe, and territorial access to the Department's lands for wildlife management actions;

c. Within 180 days, develop a proposed categorical exclusion for proposed projects that utilize common practices solely intended to enhance or restore habitat for species such as sage grouse and/or mule deer; and

d. Review and use the best available science to inform development of specific guidelines for the Department's lands and waters related to planning and developing energy, transmission, or other relevant projects to avoid or minimize potential negative impacts on wildlife.

This Order follows the intent and purpose of SO 3356 and expands and enhances the specific directives therein.

Sec. 4 Implementation. Consistent with governing laws, regulations, and principles of responsible public stewardship, I direct the following actions:

a. With respect to activities at the national level, I hereby direct the BLM, FWS, and NPS to:

(1) Within 30 days, identify an individual to serve as the "Coordinator" for the Department. The Coordinator will work closely with appropriate States, Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and/or associations to identify active programs focused on big-game winter range and/or migration corridors. The programs are to be organized and cataloged by region and other geographic features (such as watersheds and principles of wildlife management) as determined by the Deputy Secretary, including those principles identified in the Department's reorganization plan.

(2) Within 45 days, provide the Coordinator information regarding:

(i) Past and current bureau conservation/restoration efforts on winter range and migration corridors;

(ii) Whether consideration of winter range and corridors is included in appropriate bureau land (or site) management plans;

(iii) Bureau management actions used to accomplish habitat objectives in these areas;

(iv) The location of areas that have been identified as a priority for conservation and habitat treatments; and

(v) Funding sources previously used and/or currently available to the bureau for winter range and migration corridor conservation/restoration efforts.

(3) Within 60 days, if sufficient land use plans are already established that are consistent with this Order, work with the Coordinator and each regional Liaison (see section 4b) to discuss implementation of the plans. If land use plans are not already established, work with the Coordinator and each regional Liaison to develop an Action Plan that summarizes information collected in section 4 (a) (1) and (2), establishes a clear direction forward with each State, and includes:

(i) Habitat management goals and associated actions as they are associated with big game winter range and migration corridors;

(ii) Measurable outcomes; and

(iii) Budgets necessary to complete respective action(s).

b. With respect to activities at the State level, I hereby direct the BLM, FWS, and NPS to:

(1) Within 60 days, identify one person in each appropriate unified region (see section 4a) to serve as the Liaison for the Department for that unified region. The Liaison will coordinate at the State level with each State in their region, as well as with the Liaison for any other regions within the State. The Liaison will schedule a meeting with the respective State fish and wildlife agency to assess where and how the Department can work in close partnership with the State on priority winter range and migration corridor conservation.

(2) Within 60 days, if this focus is not already included in respective land management plans, evaluate how land under each bureau's management responsibility can contribute to State or other efforts to improve the quality and condition of priority big-game winter and migration corridor habitat.

(3) Provide a report on October 1, 2018, and at the end of each fiscal year thereafter, that details how respective bureau field offices, refuges, or parks cooperated and collaborated with the appropriate State wildlife agencies to further winter range and migration corridor habitat conservation.

(4) Assess State wildlife agency data regarding wildlife migrations early in the planning process for land use plans and significant project-level actions that bureaus develop; and

(5) Evaluate and appropriately apply site-specific management activities, as identified in State land use plans, site-specific plans, or the Action Plan (described above), that conserve or restore habitat necessary to sustain local and regional big-game populations through measures that may include one or more of the following:

(i) restoring degraded winter range and migration corridors by removing encroaching trees from sagebrush ecosystems, rehabilitating areas damaged by fire, or treating exotic/invasive vegetation to improve the quality and value of these areas to big game and other wildlife;

(ii) revising wild horse and burro-appropriate management levels (AML) or removing horses and burros exceeding established AML from winter range or migration corridors if habitat is degraded as a result of their presence;

(iii) working cooperatively with private landowners and State highway departments to achieve permissive fencing measures, including potentially modifying (via smooth wire), removing (if no longer necessary), or seasonally adapting (seasonal lay down) fencing if proven to impede movement of big game through migration corridors;

(iv) avoiding development in the most crucial winter range or migration corridors during sensitive seasons;

(v) minimizing development that would fragment winter range and primary migration corridors;

(vi) limiting disturbance of big game on winter range; and

(vii) utilizing other proven actions necessary to conserve and/or restore the vital big-game winter range and migration corridors across the West.

c. With respect to science, I hereby direct the USGS to:

(1) Proceed in close cooperation with the States, in particular the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and its program manager for the Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool, prior to developing maps or mapping tools related to elk, deer, or pronghorn movement or land use; and

(2) Prioritize evaluations of the effectiveness of habitat treatments in sagebrush communities, as requested by States or land management bureaus, and identified needs related to developing a greater understanding of locations used as winter range or migration corridors.

d. I further hereby direct the responsible bureaus and offices within the Department to:

(1) Within 180 days, to update all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, instructions, manuals, directives, notices, implementing actions, and any other similar actions to be consistent with the requirements in this Order;

(2) Within 30 days, provide direction at the state or other appropriate level to revise existing Federal-State memorandums of agreement to incorporate consultation with State agencies on the location and conservation needs of winter range and migration routes; and

(3) Consult with State wildlife agencies and bureaus to ensure land use plans are consistent and complementary to one another along the entire wildlife corridor in common instances where winter range or migration corridors span jurisdictional boundaries.

e. Heads of relevant bureaus will ensure that appropriate members of the Senior Executive Service under their purview include a performance standard in their respective current or future performance plan that specifically implements the applicable actions identified in this Order.

Sec. 5 Management. I hereby direct the Deputy Secretary to take is responsible for taking all reasonably necessary steps to implement this Order.

Sec. 6 Effect of Order. This Order is intended to improve the internal management of the Department. This Order and any resulting reports or recommendations are not intended to, and do not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the provision of this Order and any Federal laws or regulations, the laws or regulations will control.

Sec. 7 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are implemented and completed, or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked.

Secretary of the Interior

Date: