

Idaho Migratory Big Game Initiative



For generations, wildlife biologists, ranchers, sportsmen and tribes have known that many large ungulate populations in Idaho and throughout the West migrate from summer to winter range to optimize forage quality and decrease seasonal risks associated with certain habitats. Migratory herds possess a special ecological, cultural and economic importance to surrounding communities and depend on a variety of land ownerships throughout the year.

Over the course of their annual migrations, many animals depend on private and tribally owned working lands for forage and shelter from deep snow.

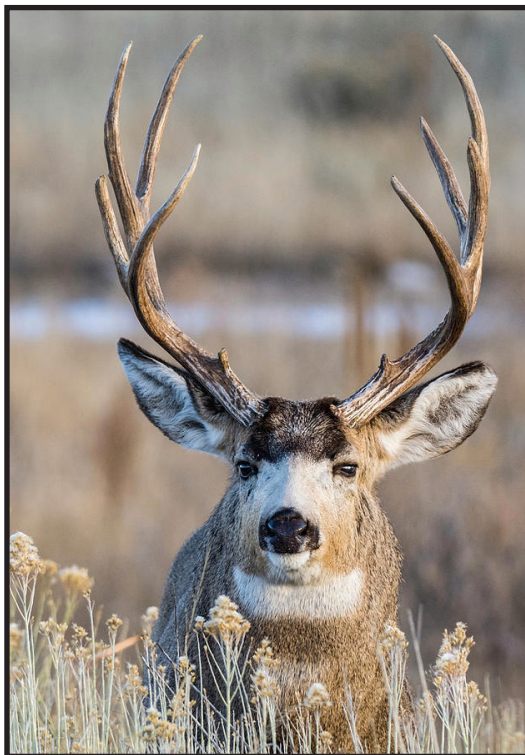
USDA has a flexible suite of tools available through the Farm Bill to support voluntary conservation and is uniquely positioned to conserve seasonal ranges of migratory big game where they intersect these working lands. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked closely with its many partners to develop an approach where existing Farm Bill programs could be strategically implemented in a way that maximizes benefits to both migrating animals and the working lands that support them.

Conservation Programs

USDA is supporting this partnership with a focused application of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, (EQIP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). The initiative is open to producers statewide, however there are several priority areas within big game migration corridors that will be the focal point of conservation efforts. Contact your local service center to discuss how your land aligns with this initiative.

Conservation Actions

EQIP focuses on integrating practices on working lands, such as prescribed grazing systems, wildlife-friendly fencing, and invasive species control. ACEP assists producers who want to protect sensitive landscapes and prime farmlands from conversion to non-compatible land uses, such as residential subdivisions, through establishment of long-term conservation easements.



Priority areas in Idaho include, but are not limited to: the Panhandle Complex, Lemhi Valley Complex, Big Desert Mountain Valley Complex, Rocky Point and the Smoky-Boise Complex.

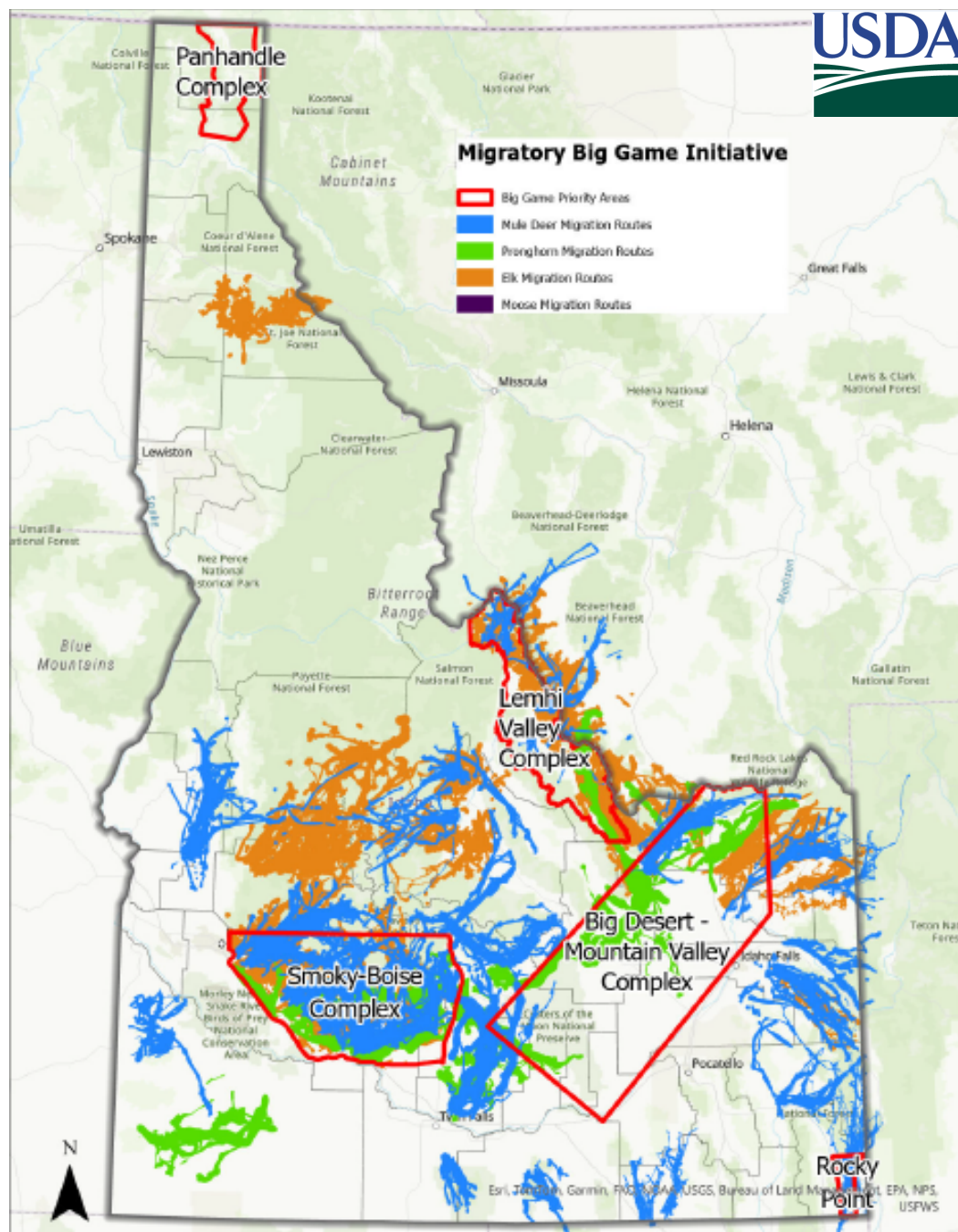
Contact your Local Service Center

To contact your local USDA Service Center, please visit: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

More Information

For additional information about NRCS Farm Bill programs, please visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/idaho>





Eligible Practices

Other conservation practices may be eligible if they support one of the primary practices below:

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Brush Management
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Retrofitting Fence
- Wildlife Habitat Planting
- Obstruction Removal
- Prescribed Grazing
- Pest Management Conservation System
- Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
- Structures for Wildlife
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Range Planting
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Riparian Forest Buffer
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

This initiative is open to landowners statewide, however there will be special emphasis given to acreages that fall within the priority areas listed above. These priority areas have been identified in collaboration with Idaho Fish and Game.

