



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Easement Subcommittee request

Keith Griswold, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

What is Migration Big Game Initiative (MBGI)?

USDA's Migratory Big Game Initiative provides a new package of investments in key conservation programs. Producers in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana have been able to apply for conservation programs offered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) that meet their unique needs starting in the fall of 2023.

USDA is focusing on using voluntary and incentive-based programs to target assistance on the following:

Agricultural Land Protection: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) funding to use towards permanent conservation easements on important habitats within migration corridors. ACEP assists producers who want to protect sensitive landscapes and prime farmlands from conversion to non-compatible land uses such as residential subdivision through establishment of long-term conservation easements.

What is Migration Big Game Initiative (MBGI)?

**Restoration, Enhancement, and Management:
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
funding to prioritize practices that restore and manage
habitats migrating big game need.

Some examples include fence conversion, invasive species treatments, aspen regeneration, and wet meadow restoration. EQIP focuses on integrating practices on working lands, such as prescribed grazing systems.

Data sets for usage

- USGS migration vol 2 <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2022/5008/sir20225008.pdf> WA pgs 63-64
- USGS migration vol 3 <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2022/5088/sir20225088.pdf> WA pg65-67, 73, 101
- USGS migration vol 4 <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2024/5006/sir20245006.pdf> WA pgs 45-47, 69
- WDFW 2023 Mule Deer Action Plan https://wafwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/WDFW_SO3362_State-Action-Plan_Washington_2023-Update.pdf
- WDFW Elk herd plans <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/management/planning/plans>

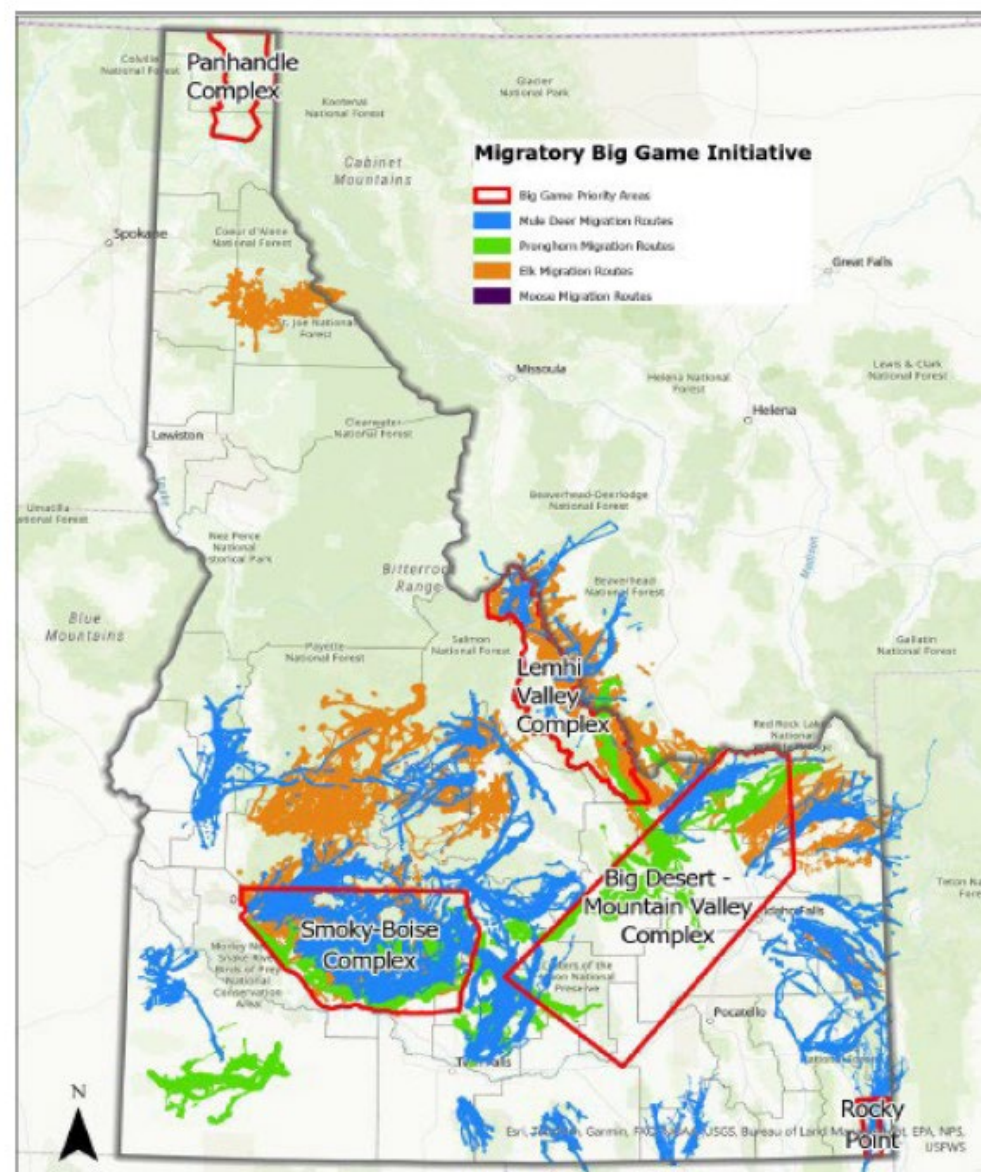
Data sets to increase knowledge

- Tribal data
- Land trust priority areas
- Public wildlife agency priority areas for winter, calving, summer areas
- Etc....

Example of other states

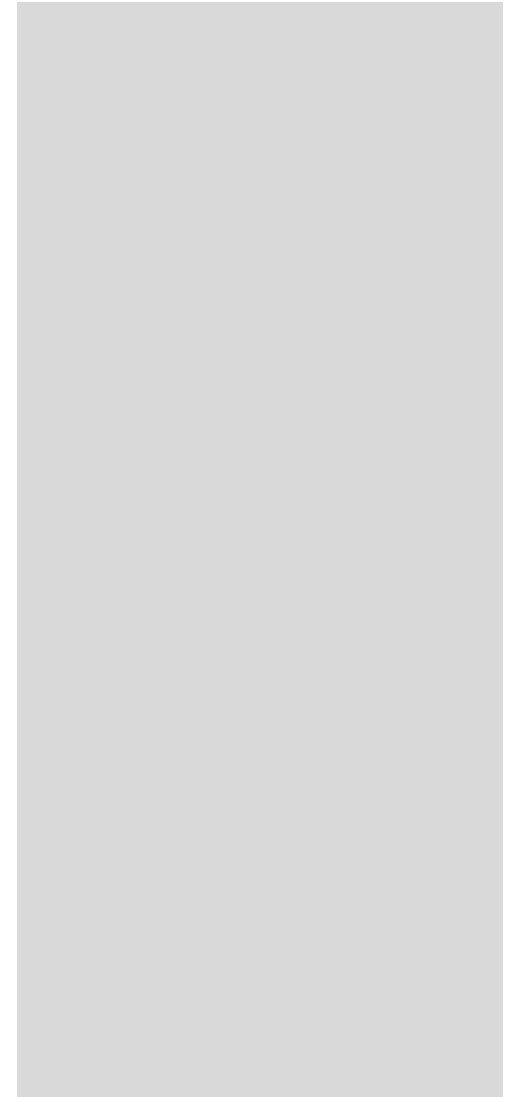
Priority Areas/Migrations Routes

Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) identified Big Game Priority areas and species migration routes are loaded in conservation desktop.



Request for volunteers

- Tribes
- Ungulate biologists
- Land Trusts
- Private landowners
- Wildlife NGOs
 - RMEF
 - MDF
- Public land managers
 - USFS
 - BLM
 - WA DNR
 - USFWS





QUESTIONS?

