



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



UTAH MIGRATORY BIG GAME INITIATIVE (MBGI) - UPDATE

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

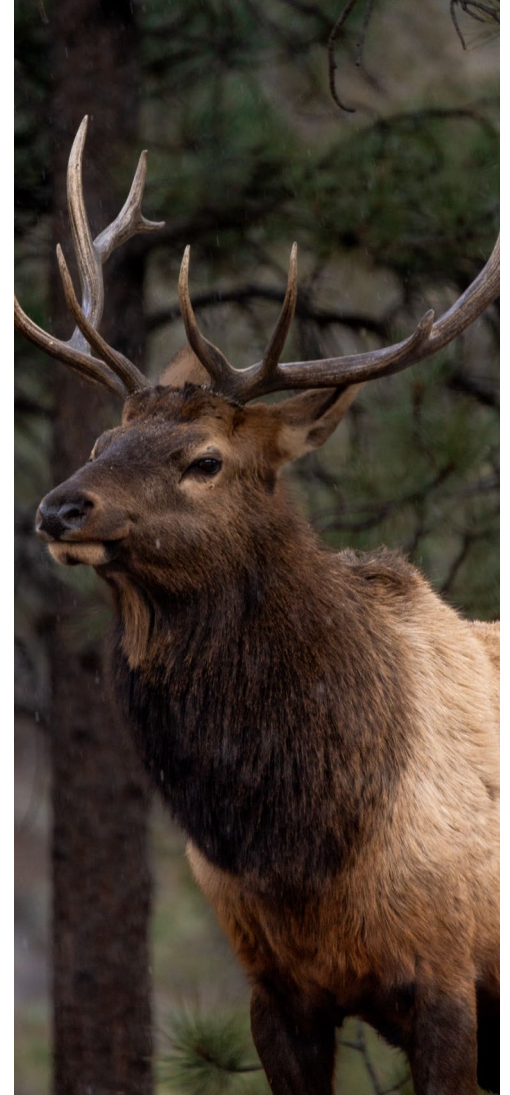
MIGRATORY BIG GAME INITIATIVE (MBGI)

HISTORY:

- Started in Wyoming in 2022 as a pilot program – very successful
- Partnerships from the Wyoming Fish and Game along with other partners contributed greatly to the success.
- In 2024 and 2025 the MBGI expanded to Montana and Idaho as well as continuing in Wyoming
- 2026 MBGI expanded to Utah and Colorado
- 2027 – expanded – Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, and North Dakota

Chiefs Priority

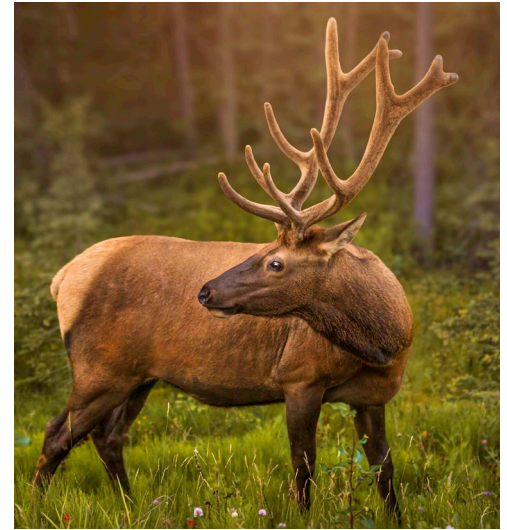
- Working Lands for Wildlife MBGI is a priority of NRCS Chief, Colton Buckley.



Migratory Big Game: A Framework for Conservation Action (MBGF)

MBGF provides:

- A strategic model for aligning NRCS financial and technical assistance with the conservation priorities of state game and fish agencies, tribes, and public land partners to conserve migratory big game.
- MBGF is a state action plan.
- MBGF captures four core elements:
 - ❑ Priority landscapes
 - ❑ Primary Threats Addressed
 - ❑ GIS Data Submission and Spatial Contacts
 - ❑ Primary Delivery Bottlenecks and Strategic Support Needs
- Completion Date: September 30, 2026
- Developed MBGI Utah State Management Plan Draft – fall 2025



2026 Utah NRCS Priority Areas

Priority Area 1 – North Area – parts of Salt Lake, Ogden, Logan, Boxelder

Priority Area 2 – NE Utah – basin, Vernal, Roosevelt, Book Cliffs, Uintah Mountains

Priority Area 3 – SE Utah – Moab, Monticello, La Sal Mountains

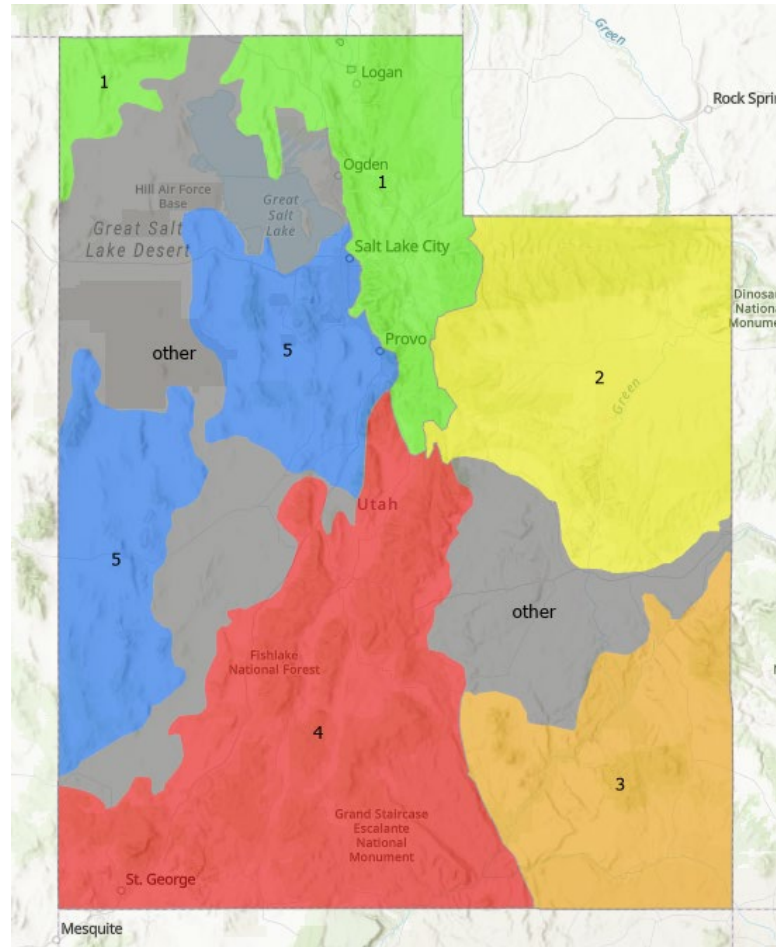
Priority Area 4 – Central to Southern Utah – Fishlake, Cedar City, Richfield, Fillmore

Priority Area 5 – West Desert, Tooele, Ibapah

Other Area – scattered throughout Utah – antelope habitat, potential deer and elk habitat



2026 Utah Map of MBGI Priority Areas



2027 Utah NRCS Priority Areas

- ❖ Priority areas may change to more specific critical areas identified by the DWR
- ❖ Will work closely with DWR and other partners in establishing priority areas for 2027.



Core Practice

- The core conservation practice for MBGI is **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)**.
- **All MBGI contracts** must include 645 or complete a conservation system that includes Code 645 on the land being contracted.





Supporting Practices

314 – Brush Management

382 – Fence

666 – Forest Stand Improvement

383 – Fuel Break

533 – Pumping Plant

528 – Grazing Management

315 – Herbaceous Weed Treatment

516 – Livestock Pipeline

500 – Obstruction Removal

338 – Prescribed Burning

550 – Range Planting

643 – Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities

391 – Riparian Forest Buffer

390 – Riparian Herbaceous Cover

574 – Spring Development

649 – Structures for Wildlife

612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment

614 – Watering Facility

642 – Water Well

420 – Wildlife Habitat Planting

384 – Woody Residue Treatment

*** All the rankings are combined, so all practices eligible in Utah should be in the ranking.**

2026 MBGI Final Applications and Contracts

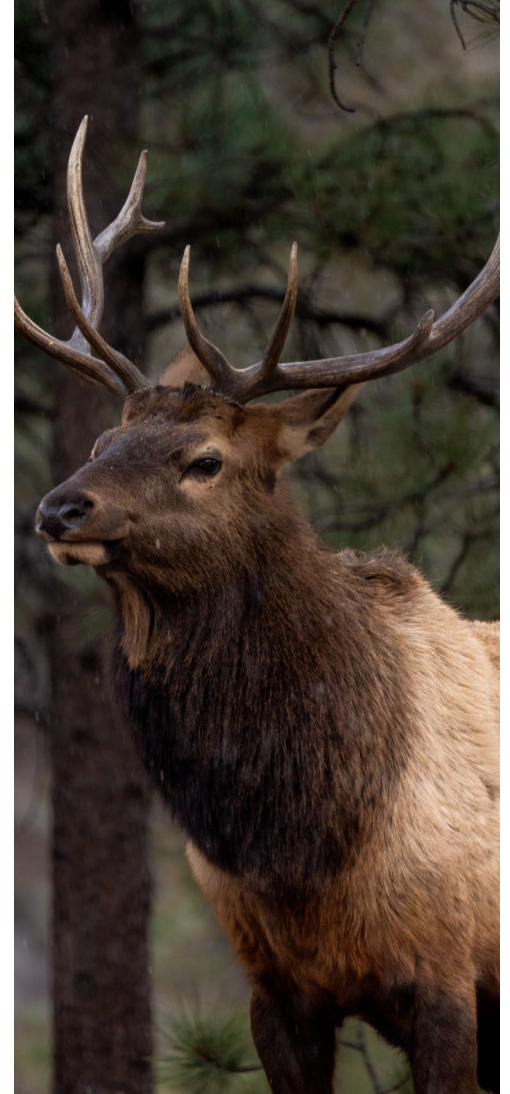
- 86 applications
- Final Obligation amount = \$1,264,089
- 7 Contracts

- 79 unfunded applications
 - Over 10 million dollars requested

- Working on requesting additional funding for 2027
 - 5 to 10 million
 - Depended on National Funding Levels

Partners

- Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)
- Wildlife Migration Agency Coordination
 - Division of Wildlife Resources
 - National Park Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Forest Service
 - Utah Department of Transportation
 - Utah State University
 - Others





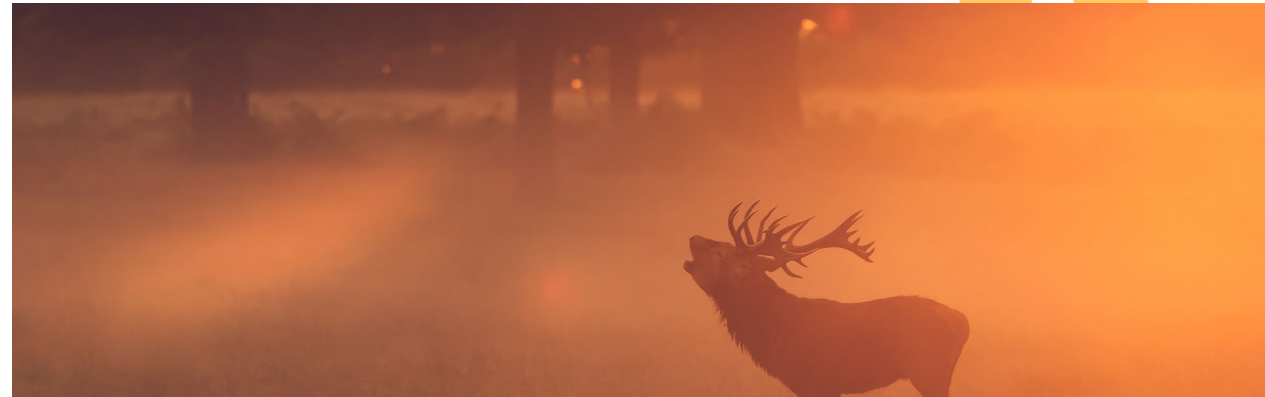
Contact Information

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QUESTIONS



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