



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**Ecological Services  
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009**

In Reply Refer To:  
ES-61411/WY09TA0369

John Emmerich, Deputy Director  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
5400 Bishop Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Mr. Emmerich:

Thank you for your letter of August 11, 2009 asking if we support the Wyoming Department of Transportation's (WYDOT) application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant. WYDOT's application addresses both public safety and critically important wildlife conservation issues. We do indeed support the application WYDOT has prepared.

The WYDOT application focuses on the re-establishment and protection of wildlife migration corridors, including the longest remaining migratory route of the pronghorn antelope. Highways and associated traffic can significantly impede the movement of some wildlife species. The proposed projects will substantially reduce those impediments and make important contributions to wildlife conservation.

Sustaining migration routes, which operate at a landscape scale, helps to maintain ecosystem function. Although the primary species that would benefit from these projects are not a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) responsibility, maintaining functioning ecosystems is important to the conservation of all species, including migratory birds, and other Service trust resources. Furthermore, conservation at the landscape scale is a growing priority of the Service as we address strategic conservation needs and the affects of climate change. Therefore, by enhancing seasonal migration, the proposed underpasses, overpasses, and protective fencing will benefit many species of wildlife and enhance overall conservation potential, while notably reducing the risk of human injury and property damage resulting from wildlife-vehicle collisions.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support. If there's any additional assistance that we can provide to you, or the Department of Transportation, please contact Clark McCreedy of my staff (307-772-2374 ext. 228).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. T. Kelly".

Brian T. Kelly  
Field Supervisor  
Wyoming Field Office

cc: WGFD, Non-game Coordinator, Lander, WY (B. Oakleaf)  
WGFD, Statewide Habitat Protection Supervisor, Cheyenne, WY (M. Flanderka)