



Each spring and fall, approximately 300 pronghorn make one of the longest mammal migrations in the lower 48 states to access seasonal range. Archaeological evidence suggests that they have been migrating this path for over 6,000 years.

Conservation Challenges

Today, with the influx of highways and development, this is the last existing pronghorn migration route in and out of Grand Teton National Park. Since 2003, WCS scientists have been studying the Path of the Pronghorn. Using field research and GIS analysis, WCS has led the effort to secure formal recognition and permanent protection for this fragile migration route. A portion of this route, designated as the Path of the Pronghorn, is the only federally recognized wildlife migration corridor in the United States. It protects approximately one half of the migration route through the Bridger Teton National Forest.

One bottleneck for pronghorn moving along this migration path is at Trapper's Point, where riverine corridors and residential development narrow the route. Additionally, thousands of animals are forced to cross U.S. Highway 191 (US 191). The highway crossing created a dangerous situation for humans and wildlife alike.

Approach & Activities

WCS helped identify intersections between pronghorn migration corridors and US 191 where under and overpasses with funnel fencing could reduce wildlife vehicle collisions between pronghorn and motorists. In 2010, the Wyoming Department of Transportation used this information to begin a \$9.7 million project along US 191 to provide safe passage for wildlife and humans alike. With this project completed in the fall of 2012, 8 wildlife crossing structures and 23 kilometers of fencing now prevent pronghorn and other wildlife from crossing the highway surface and guide the animals to safely cross under and over US 191.

These new wildlife crossing structures are expected to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions by 80% and will pay for themselves within 12 years by reducing wildlife loss, damage to vehicles, and injury to people. We are currently studying the effects of the structures and the adaptations of the pronghorn at Trapper's Point to utilize lessons learned in other critical wildlife road crossing locations around the world.

Goals & Accomplishments

These seasonal migrations provide visitors with the opportunity to observe pronghorn and other species moving across the overpass, providing a unique opportunity for outreach to help build support for migration conservation. We are working with partners to design and install a physical and web-based virtual interpretive site that provides information about this important ecological phenomenon and the infrastructure investments that have been made to conserve these migratory movements. We are leading this collaborative effort to design, construct and maintain an educational interpretive pullout near Trapper's Point overpass.

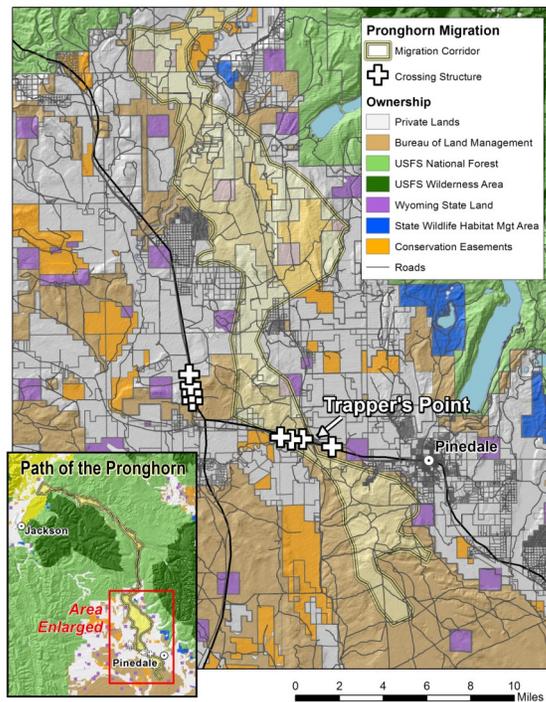
Our web camera was recently installed on the overpass and is now live. This fall will mark the first time that the public can watch migrating pronghorn utilize a wildlife overpass in real time.

To learn more, visit www.wcsnorthamerica.org/WildPlaces/YellowstoneandNorthernRockies.aspx



Pronghorn near Trappers Point, Wyoming, using the newly built crossing structure to safely cross the highway. Photo: Jeff Burrell, WCS.

PRONGHORN SAFE PASSAGES



Pronghorn migration corridor and safe passage crossing structures between seasonal ranges.

Path of the Pronghorn

- ONE OF THE LONGEST OVERLAND MAMMAL MIGRATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA
- THE LONGEST MIGRATION ROUTE IN THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM
- THE ONLY REMAINING PRONGHORN MIGRATION ROUTE TO AND FROM GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK
- MORE THAN 100 MILES LONG, BUT AT ITS NARROWEST, LESS THAN 150 YARDS WIDE
- MORE THAN 90% ON FEDERAL LANDS

Partners (Funders*)

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department*
- Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance*
- Water for Wildlife*
- National Parks Conservation Association*
- Wyoming Department of Transportation
- Wyoming Migration Initiative
- Pinedale Travel and Tourism Commission
- Upper Green River Alliance
- Grand Teton National Park
- Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
- Green River Valley Land Trust
- Bureau of Land Management
- Wyoming Office of Tourism* (pending)
- Sublette County* (pending)

Wildlife Conservation Society

SAVES WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES BY UNDERSTANDING CRUCIAL ISSUES, CRAFTING SCIENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS, AND TAKING CONSERVATION ACTIONS THAT BENEFIT NATURE AND HUMANITY.