



## WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION

Prior to completing this application, please review the Funding Priorities located

**Project Title:**

*80 character limit*

**Organization Name:**

**Project Lead:**

Name

Email

Phone

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

**Additional Point of Contact** *(if different from Project Lead):*

Name

Email

Phone

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

**Project Type** *(select all that apply):*

Research

Habitat

Other:

Education and Outreach

Conservation Easement

Captures & Transplants

Population Monitoring

**Project Location(s) Information:**

County:

Nearest Town:

**Project Phase** *(if applicable):*

of

**Project Timeline:**

to

**Budget Information:**

**Total WY-WSF Request \$**

Total Project Cost: \$

If yes, list each grant received for five years

Has this project been funded by the Foundation previously?

**Other Project Contributions or Matching Funds:**

In Hand

Requested

Source

Amount \$

Source

Amount \$

Source

Amount \$

Source

Amount \$

Source

Amount \$

Source

Amount \$

**Project Objective and Narrative:**

Miles/Acres Affected *(if applicable)*:

Miles

Acres

Describe Any Current or Future Monitoring/Management *(if applicable)*:

Describe how you will share your learned info with us

Additional Budget or Project Information for Consideration *(if applicable)*:

**Attachments and Supporting Documentation:**

Please select the types of attachments included:

Map(s) *required*

Letter(s) of Support

Project Design

Photos

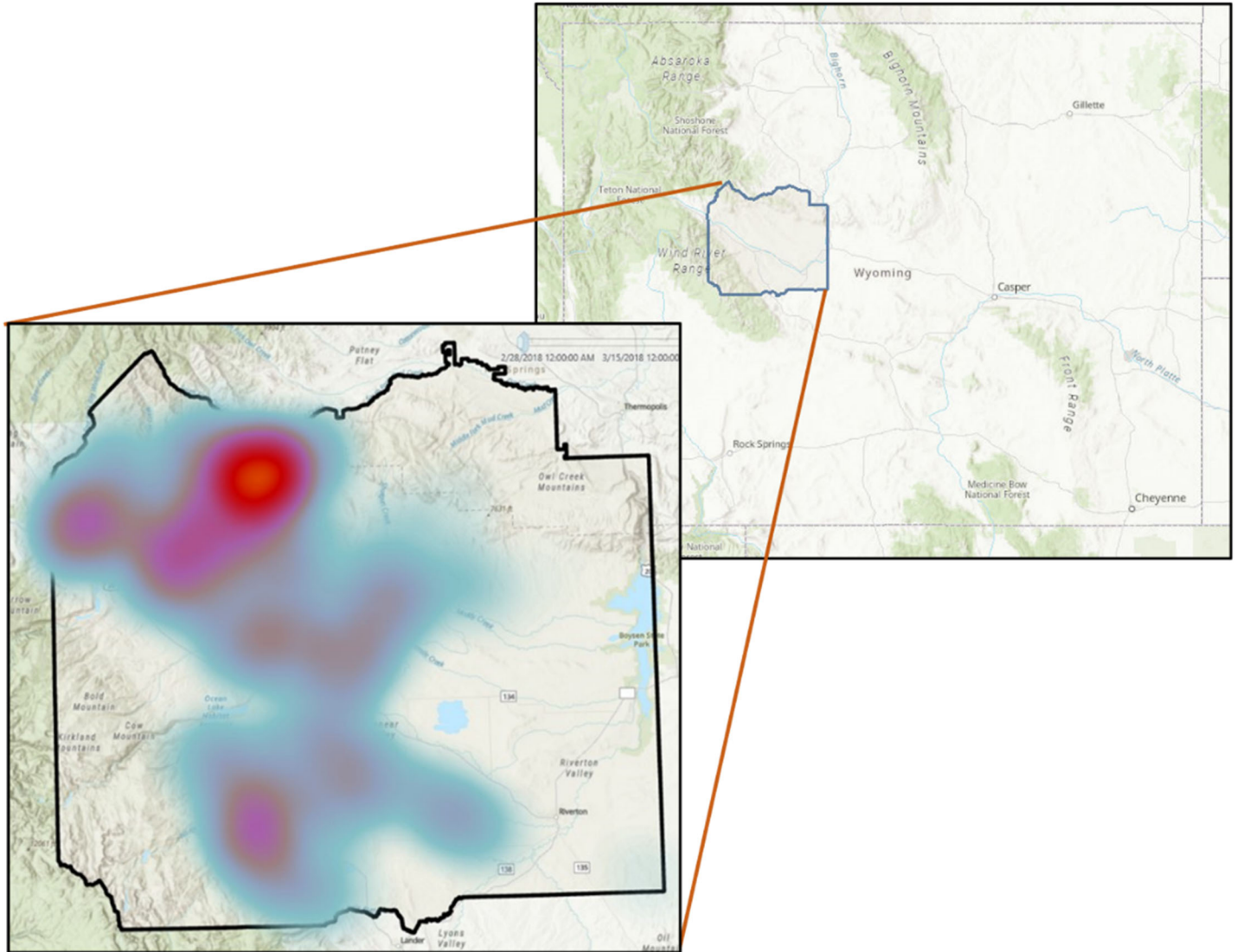
Monitoring/Management Plan Permit(s) / NEPA Compliance

Other:

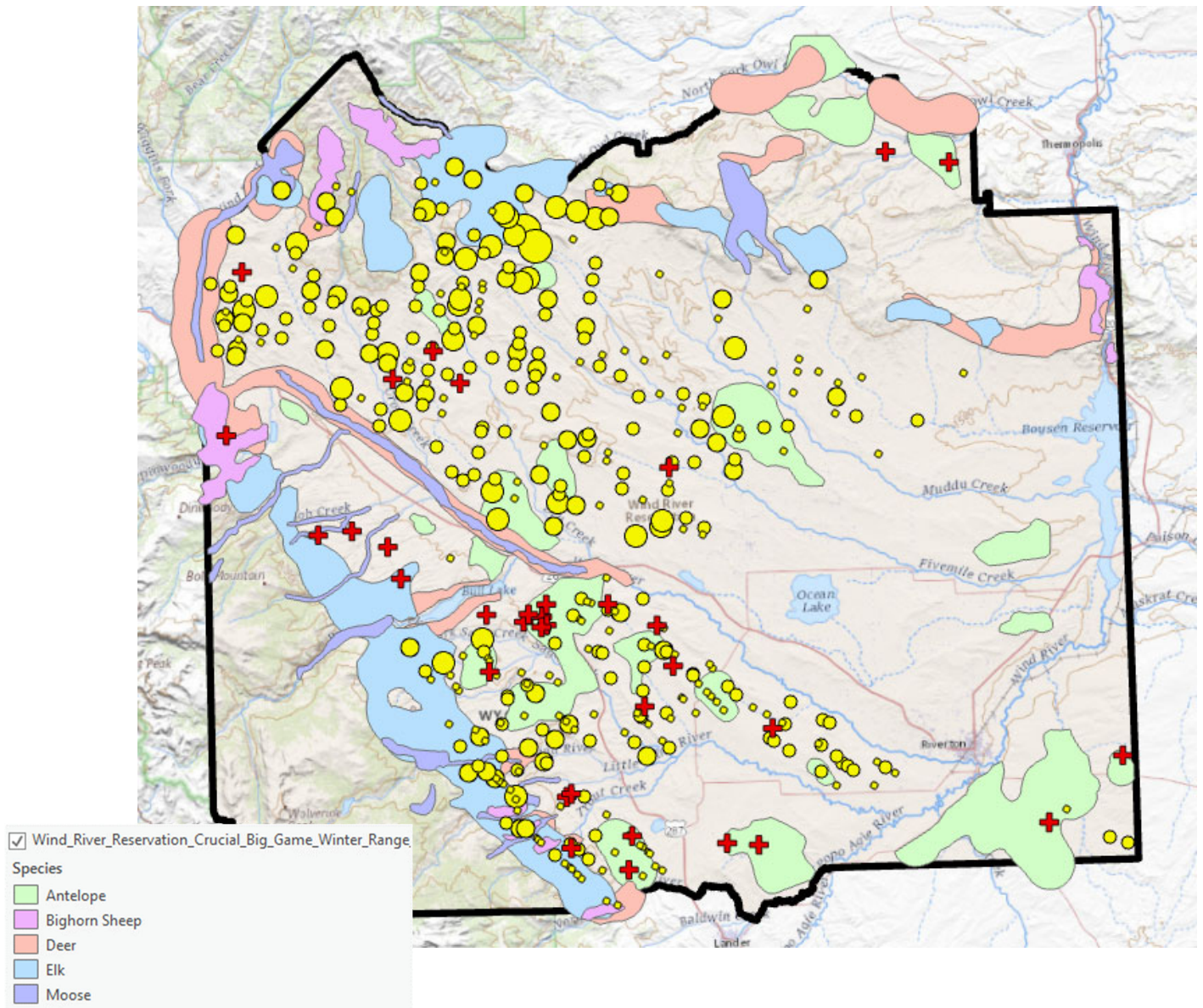
***Please submit applications and attachments via email to: [Info@wyomingwildsheep.org](mailto:Info@wyomingwildsheep.org)  
Subject Line: " Name of Project - Organization Name"***

## Wind River Reservation Feral Horse Removal Figures

**Figure 1.** Project location and feral horse densities on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming.



**Figure 2.** Locations of feral horse groups observed during Jan-Feb 2022 aerial survey (yellow dots), crucial big game winter ranges (colored polygons), and occupied sage-grouse leks (red crosses) on the Wind River Reservation





**Figure 3.** Feral horses competing with a small group of bighorn sheep on Washakie Rim. Area provides both crucial winter and yearlong range for bighorn sheep as well as crucial winter range for elk.



**Figure 4.** Transect #99-1 on Washakie Rim showing 81% forage use by early November 2018. Forage use was primarily by feral horses based on fecal counts present. Essentially no forage would be available for bighorn sheep or elk on their crucial range during the ensuing winter.





**Figure 5.** South Fork Little Wind River Canyon below Washakie Rim. Area provides bighorn winter/yearlong range. Trailing and use by feral horses was prevalent as well as expansion of cheatgrass.



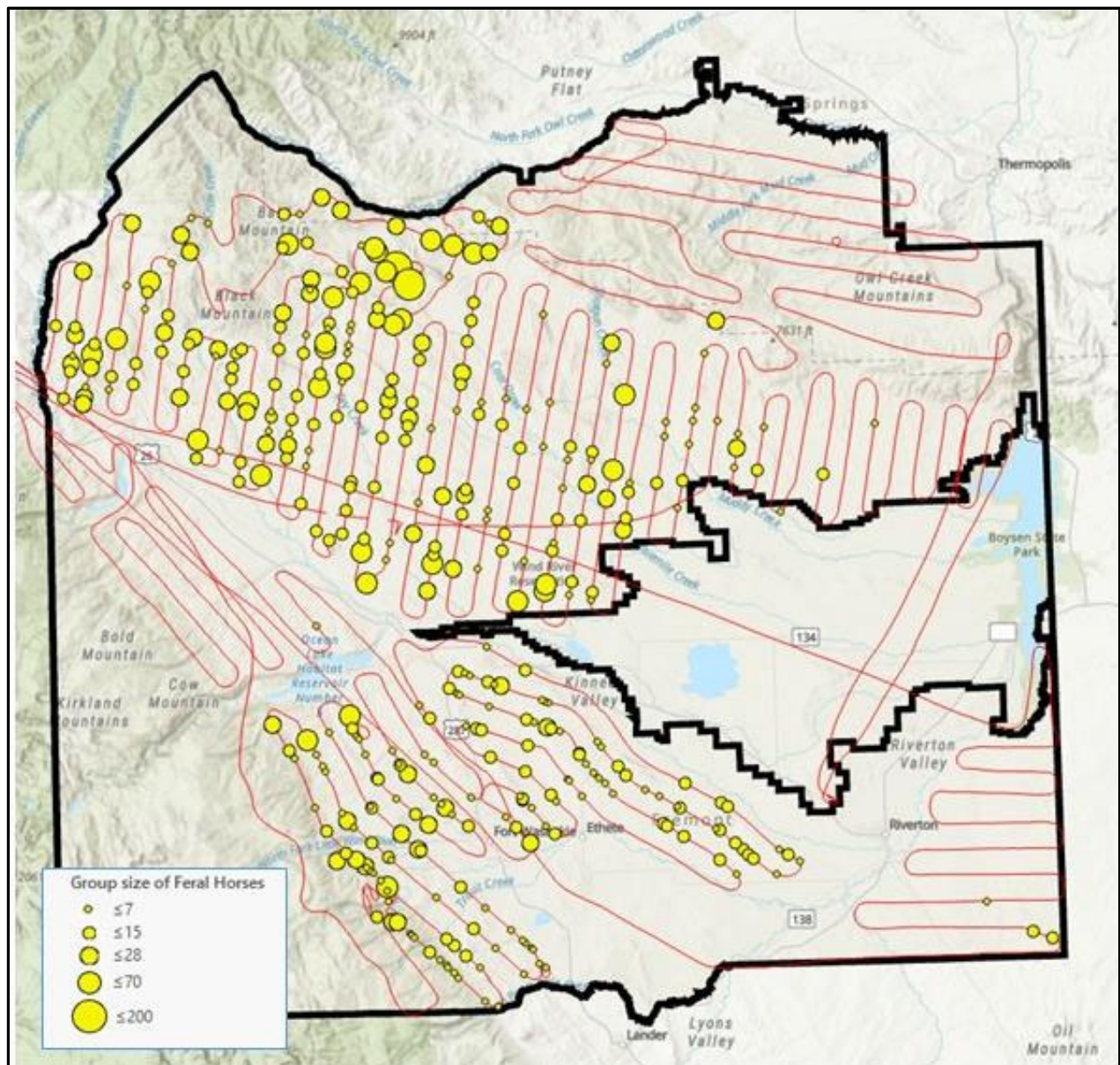


**Figure 6.** Bitterbrush hedged by over-browsing located on crucial winter range for mule deer in the Washakie Breaks area. Bitterbrush is a preferred winter browse. Feral horses in background present yearlong are directly competing with mule deer for winter forage.

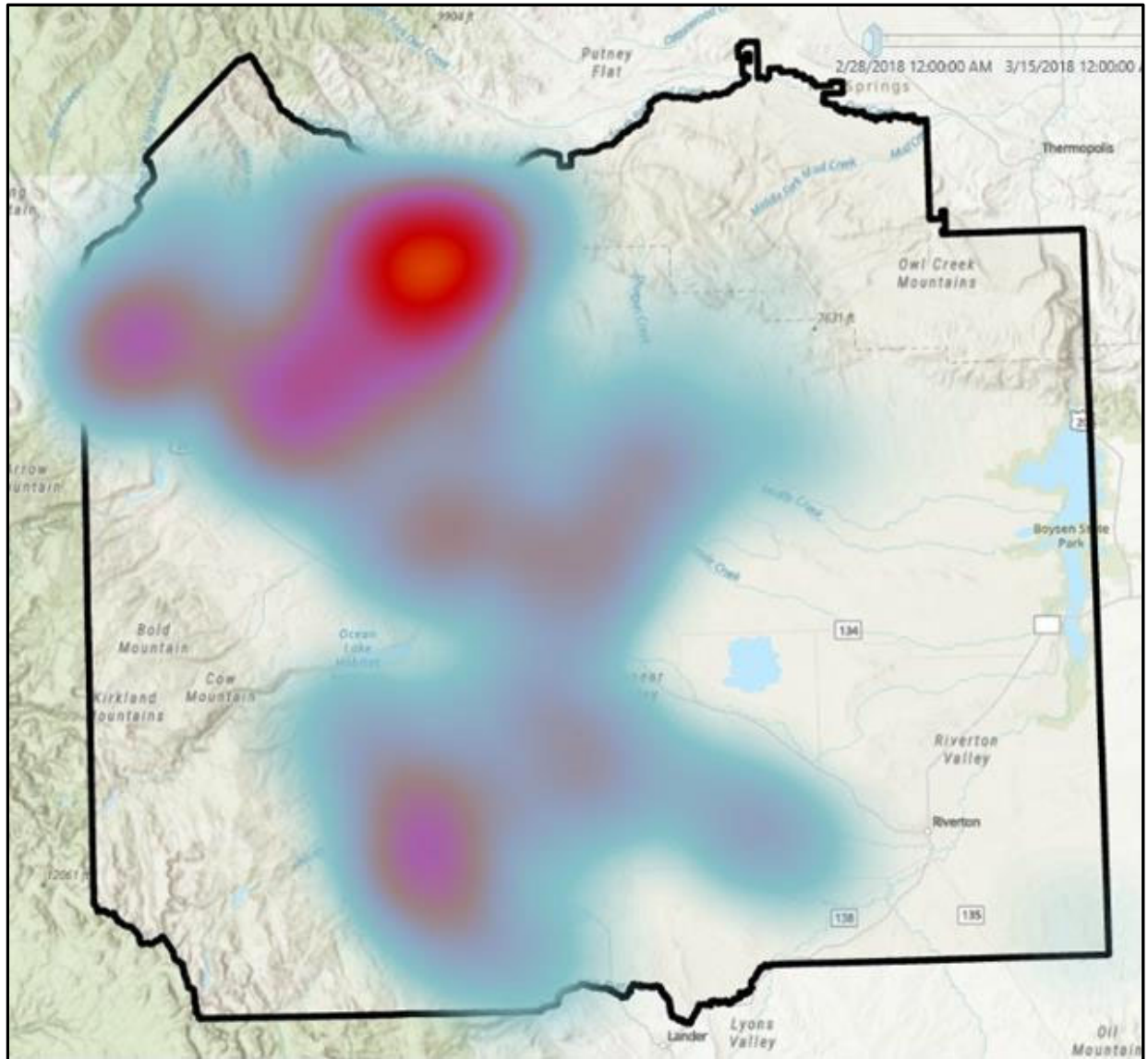




**Figure 7.** Feral horse groups observed during four fixed-wing flights in Jan-Feb 2022 on the Wind River Reservation. A total of 5,004 horses were counted. The larger the symbol, the greater the number of horses at that location. Red lines indicate the flight routes.

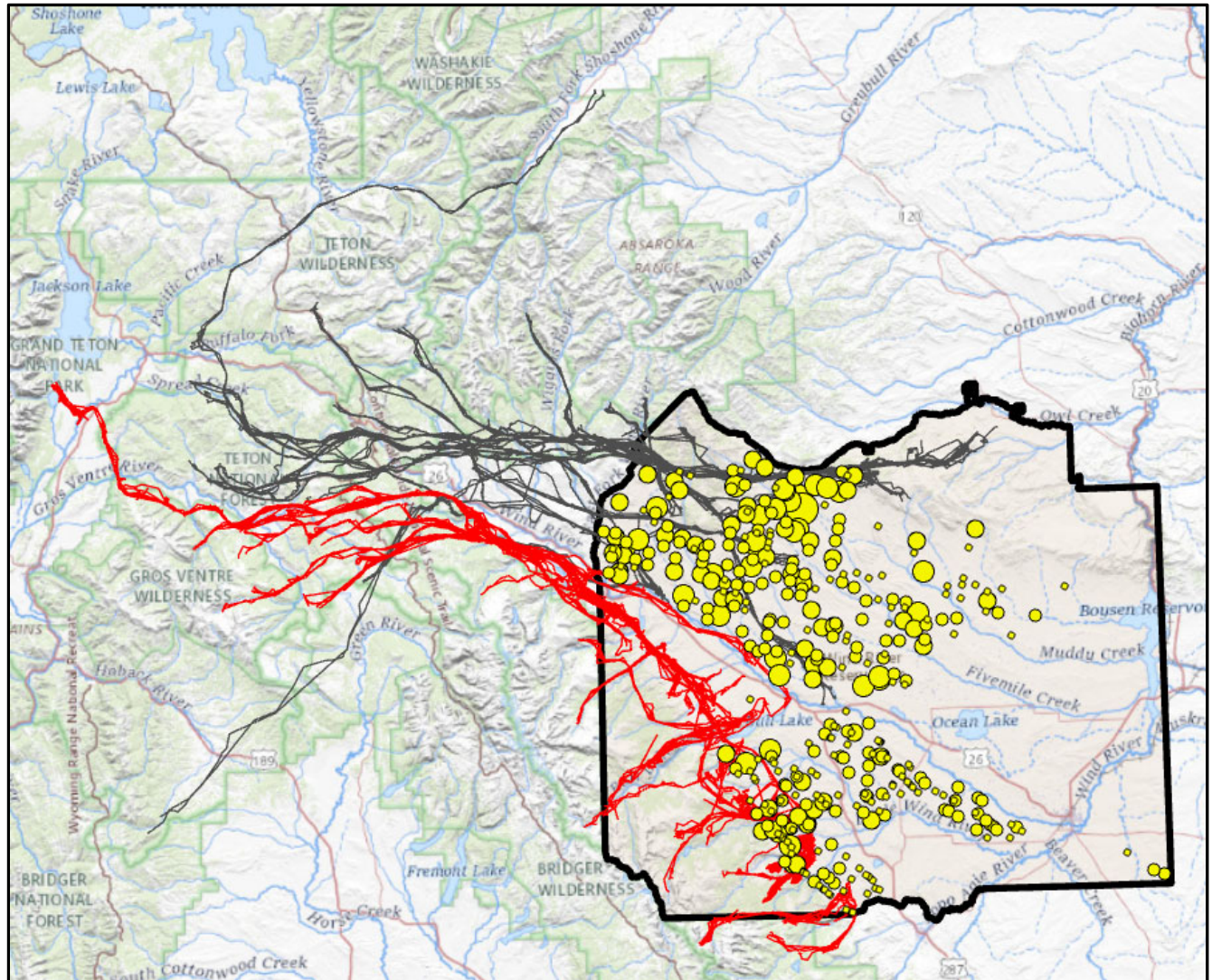


**Figure 8.** Densities of feral horses observed during 4 fixed-wing flights in Jan-Feb 2022 on the Wind River Reservation. The areas marked by red are the highest density areas. The outer boundary of this density map defines the proposed project area.



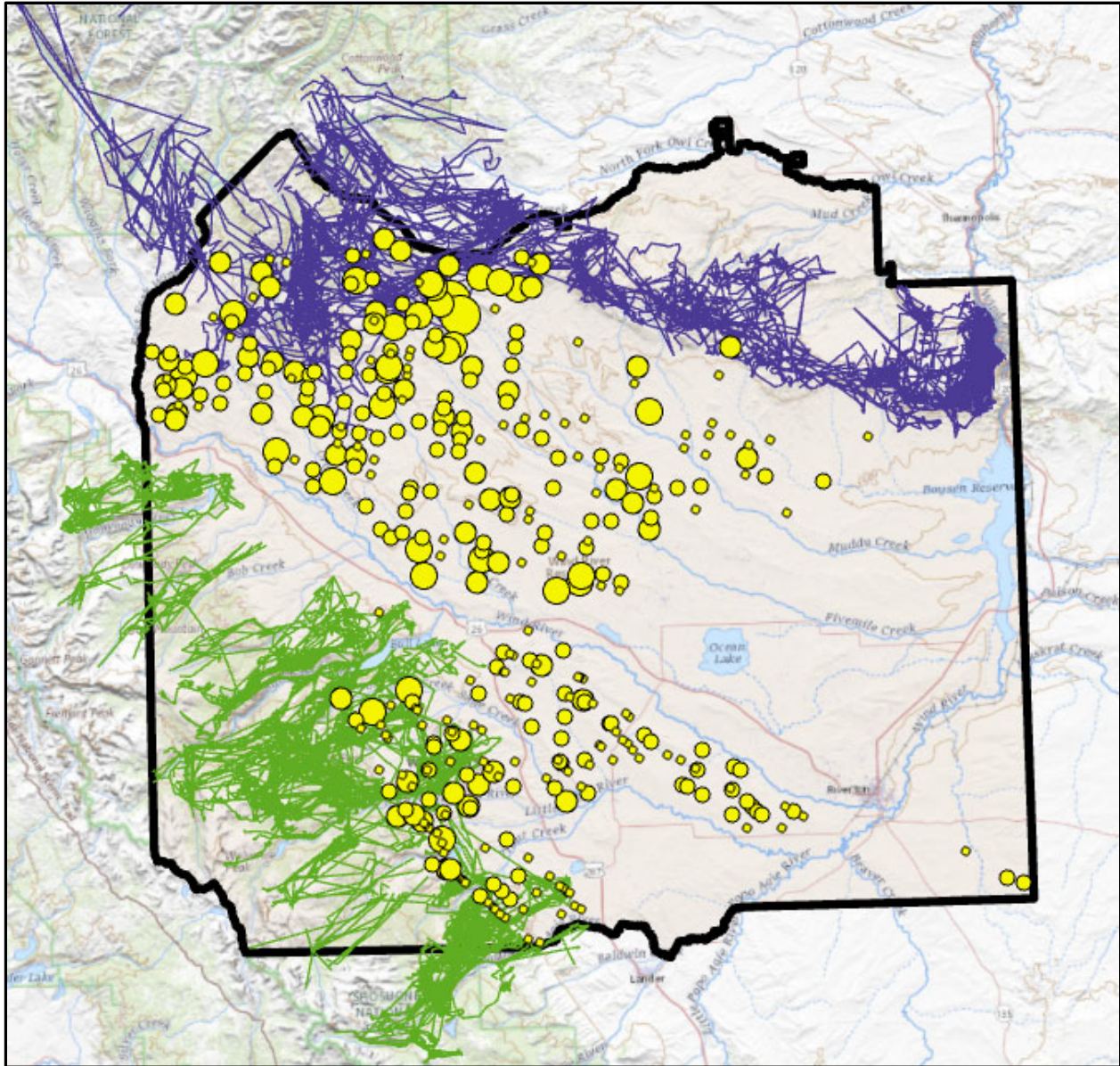


**Figure 9.** Lines indicate daily movements of 68 GPS-collared mule deer during spring and fall migration periods between 2018-2021 on the Wind River Reservation in relation to locations of feral horse groups observed during Jan-Feb 2022 aerial survey (yellow dots). Black lines represent 20 Owl Creek Mtn deer and red lines represent 48 Wind River Mtn deer.





**Figure 10.** Lines indicate daily movements of 74 GPS-collared elk during spring and fall migration periods between 2018-2021 on the Wind River Reservation in relation to locations of feral horse groups observed during Jan-Feb 2022 aerial survey (yellow dots). Blue lines represent 35 Owl Creek Mtn elk and green lines represent 39 Wind River Mtn elk.





# United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service  
170 N. First Street  
Lander, WY 82520  
307-332-2159



October 31, 2022

Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation  
PO Box 666  
Cody, WY 82414

Dear Boardmembers –

I am enthusiastically providing this letter of support for Shoshone and Arapaho Fish and Game's grant application to the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. I have witnessed firsthand the chronic, pervasive and harmful effects of an over-abundance of feral horses on bighorn sheep habitat on the Wind River Reservation. I have been a wildlife biologist and/or project leader with the Lander office of the Fish and Wildlife Service since 2001 and have been disheartened to see the increase in feral horses over this timeframe and the detrimental impacts to wildlife habitat.

In January of 2022, we assisted the tribes with a comprehensive aerial survey of feral horses across Wind River. A minimum of 5,000 were counted. A significant portion of many hundreds occur on bighorn sheep range in both the Temple Peak and Owl Creek herds.

I commend the efforts of SAFG over the last 2 years as they have worked diligently to remove over 1,300 feral horses in a piecemeal fashion. However, much more could be done with additional funding. Financial support from WYWSF would help pay for a large-scale removal by a professional horse-gather contractor.

I am encouraged by the state legislature's recent financial support of SAFG's efforts, along with other partners including Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust, Wyoming Game & Fish and BIA Wind River Agency. Many see the importance of this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pat Hnilicka, Project Leader USFWS Lander Office