

APPENDIX A: SPECIES SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

These reasonable recommendations are derived from the best available science and represent preferred management actions to protect wildlife and wildlife habitats where oil and gas development is occurring.

DEER AND ELK

- Consult with CDOW at the earliest stage of development to identify the locations of mule deer and elk important wintering habitats and production areas. Adjust development sites to avoid critical habitat patches.
- Conduct comprehensive development planning that provides a clear point of reference in evaluating, avoiding, and mitigating large scale and cumulative impacts.
- Avoid oil and gas activities within mule deer critical winter range, elk winter concentration areas, elk production areas, and migration corridors.
- Where oil and gas activities must occur in mule deer critical winter range or elk winter concentration areas, conduct these activities outside the time period from December 1 through April 15.
- Where oil and gas activities must occur in mule deer critical winter range or elk winter concentration areas, conduct these activities outside the time period from May 15 through June 30.
- Restrict post-development well site visitations to between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and reduce well site visitations between December 1 and April 15 in mule deer and elk winter range.
- Establish company guidelines to minimize wildlife mortality from vehicle collisions on roads.
- Avoid surface facility density in excess of 10 well pads per 10-square mile area (one well pad per section) in mule deer and elk winter range and in elk production areas.
- When surface density of oil and gas facilities exceeds 1 well pad/section, initiate a Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) that includes recommendations for off-site and compensatory mitigation actions.
- Phase and concentrate all development activities, so that large areas of undisturbed habitat for wildlife remain and thorough reclamation occurs immediately after development and before moving to new sites. Development should progress at a pace commensurate with reclamation success.
- Implement the species appropriate Infrastructure Layout and Drilling and Production Operations Wildlife Protection Measures found in Section II B. and Section II D. of this document.
- Identify critical habitat types and patches and adjust development sites to avoid these areas.
- Prior to development, establish baseline vegetation condition and inventory and to provide a basis for post-development habitat restoration.
- Gate single-purpose roads and restrict general public access to reduce traffic disruptions to wildlife.

- Close and immediately reclaim all roads that are redundant, not used regularly, or have been abandoned to the maximum extent possible to minimize disturbance and habitat fragmentation.
- Implement the species appropriate reclamation guidelines found in Section II G. of this document.
- Avoid aggressive non-native grasses and shrubs in mule deer and elk habitat restoration.
- Reclaim mule deer and elk habitats with native shrubs, grasses, and forbs appropriate to the ecological site disturbed.
- Restore appropriate sagebrush species or subspecies on disturbed sagebrush sites. Use locally collected seed for reseeding where possible.