

# CHAPTER 1. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

## Document Structure

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The Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations. This EIS discloses the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action. The document is organized into four chapters:

- *Chapter 1. Purpose and Need for Action:* The chapter includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose of and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded.
- *Chapter 2. Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action:* This chapter provides a more detailed description of the agency's proposed action as well as alternative methods for achieving the stated purpose. These alternatives were developed based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies. This discussion also includes mitigation measures. Finally, this section provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.
- *Chapter 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences:* This chapter describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other alternatives. This analysis is organized by resource area.
- *Chapter 4. Consultation and Coordination:* This chapter provides a list of preparers and agencies consulted during the development of the EIS.
- *Appendices:* The appendices provide more detailed information to support the analyses presented in the EIS.

Additional documentation may be found in the project planning record located at the Forest Supervisor's Office at 340 N Cache, Jackson, WY 83001.

## Background

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Supplemental feeding of elk (*Cervus elaphus*) has been conducted in northwestern Wyoming since the early 1900's. The initiation of providing supplemental feed to elk was in response to large-scale winter die-offs, which were due in part to the loss of migration routes to suitable winter range and the direct loss of winter range due to rural development and fencing (Taylor 2001). Emergency feeding was documented as early as 1907 when a Pinedale game warden provided feed for 200 snowbound elk on Willow Creek; the Supervisor of the Teton National Forest secured funds to purchase the hay (Sheldon, 1927; Brown, 1947). A 1939 Wyoming statute designates the WGFC liable for damages caused by big game animals. Many feedgrounds were established in the 1940's and 1950's to prevent elk from entering private lands and damaging stored crops.

The WGFC's supplemental elk feeding activity today is a daily event during the winter months at 21 feedgrounds and one staging area. Figure 1 displays a map of the 21 WGFC managed feedgrounds, the staging area (North Piney) and the National Elk Refuge. Eight of the 21 feedgrounds are on NFS lands: Alkali, Dell Creek, Dog Creek, Fall Creek, Fish Creek, Forest Park, Muddy Creek, and Upper Green River.

Although feedgrounds were initiated to maintain elk populations, they have become an effective tool in reducing damage to haystack yards and winter pastures on private lands (WGFD 2007) and in reducing potential or transmission of brucellosis to livestock. Elk feeding locations have been strategically placed within the National Forest and near the National Forest boundary to effectively gather elk as they transition from summer ranges down to lower elevations, mostly preventing elk migrating through private lands en route to lower elevations. Forest Service regulations require authorization for use and occupancy of NFS lands.

This EIS displays the analysis of the proposal to continue to authorize the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC) to use six sites on NFS land for their winter elk management activities and to begin authorizing use of one new area of NFS land adjacent to an existing feedground on State land at Patrol Cabin. The six existing sites are Alkali Creek, Dog Creek, Fall Creek, Fish Creek, Muddy Creek, and Upper Green River. This action is needed because the six existing authorizations have expired or will expire within the next several years and because expansion from State-owned lands onto NFS land is desired at Patrol Cabin. The two existing sites that are not studied in this analysis (Dell Creek and Forest Park) have existing authorizations that expire in 2016.

Alkali Creek, Fish Creek, and Patrol Cabin feedgrounds are located within the Gros Ventre drainage northeast of the city of Jackson within the Jackson Elk Herd Unit. Daily feeding at the three feedgrounds started in the mid 1960's (WGFD 2007). Facilities and feeding areas at Alkali and Fish Creek are located on NFS lands. Patrol Cabin Feedground is operated on state-owned lands. Historically these feedgrounds were operated relatively independently of each other with little interchange of elk among the three feedgrounds. Feeding at Alkali Creek, Fish Creek, and Patrol Cabin prior to 1998 saw an average of 497, 764, and 490 elk at each feedground respectively. The average length of feeding was 98 days at Alkali and Fish Creek and 89 days at Patrol Cabin. Since that time, wolf activity has influenced elk distribution in the Gros Ventre, resulting in elk aggregating into one large group of up to 2,845 animals. These elk now typically congregate on one feedground, and move to another feedground in the drainage in response to wolf pressure. The Proposed Action includes an increase in authorized area on NFS lands at Patrol Cabin and Fish Creek to accommodate the larger number of animals and decrease the density of animals on the feeding area.

Dog Creek (Prichard) Feedground is located south of Jackson in the Fall Creek Elk Herd Unit. The Dog Creek Feedground was established in 1951 on NFS lands. A 32-year average of 809 elk have been fed 425 tons of hay for 120 days at this site each winter. Dog Creek Feedground is located north of Highway 26, and the facilities are located within a Forest Service administrative area used for housing, the Cottonwood Work Station. There are two feeding areas at this feedground; one located on NFS lands around the administrative area, and the other is a pasture located on private land. The WGFC continues to work towards obtaining a long-term agreement with the private landowner, but has only been able to secure yearly leases to date. There have been years when the agreement with the private landowner was not secured and all winter elk management activities were conducted on NFS lands alone. Because of the inability to secure a

long-term agreement with the landowner, the WGFC seeks to maintain the authorization to conduct winter elk management activities on NFS lands.

## WYOMING FEEDGROUND LOCATIONS

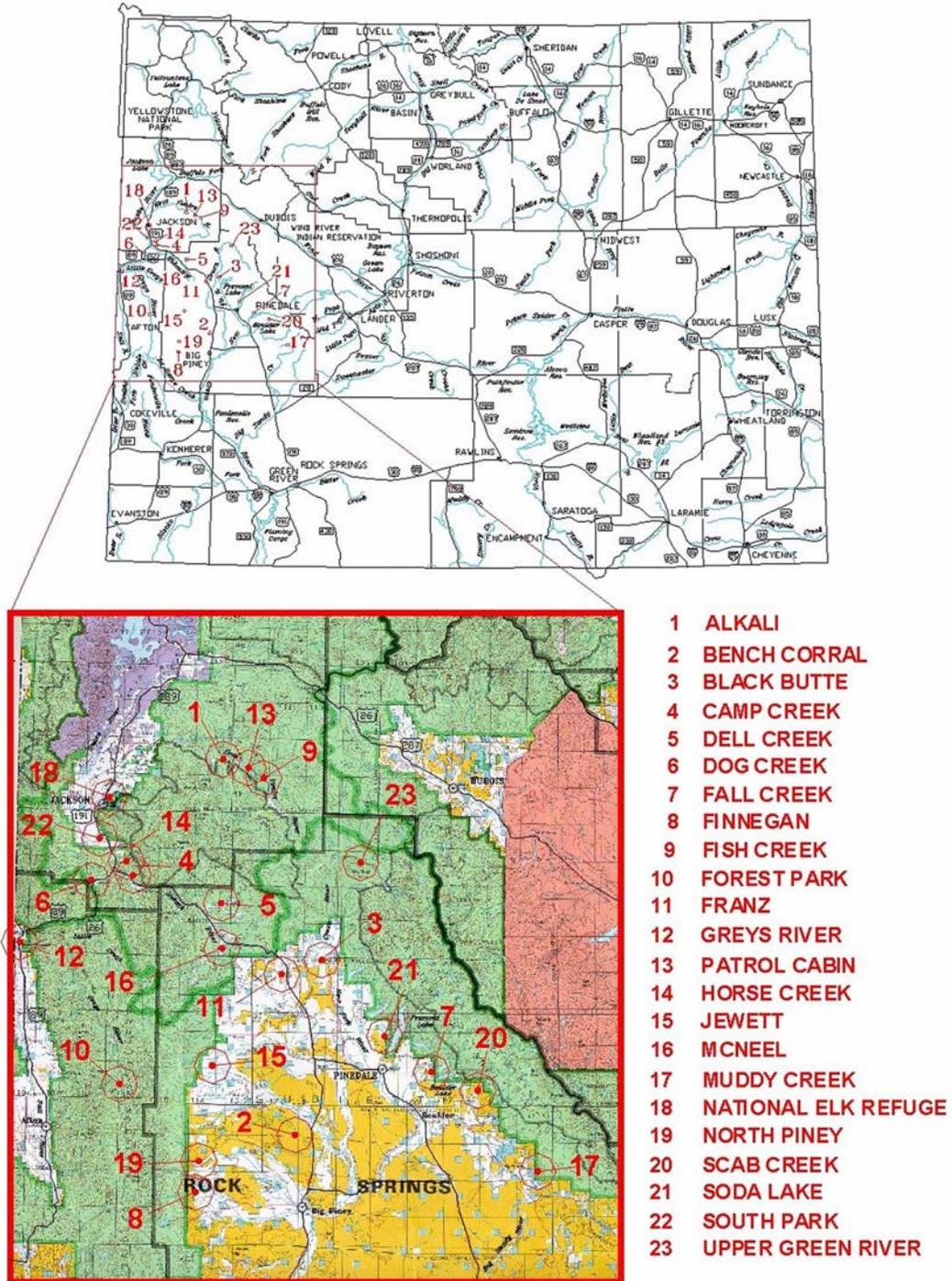


Figure 1. Elk Feedground Locations

Upper Green River Feedground is located northeast of Cora, Wyoming in the Upper Green River Elk Herd Unit. This feedground is managed to prevent starvation of elk in the Upper Green River drainage, and supplemental feeding has occurred here for approximately 75 years (WGFD 2006). A 32-year average of 508 elk have been fed 245 tons of hay for 118 days at this site each winter. All facilities and feeding areas are located on NFS lands, including a small cabin in which the feeder typically resides during winter. This feedground became supervised by the WGFD in the winter of 1961-62.

Muddy Creek and Fall Creek feedgrounds are located near Pinedale within the Pinedale Elk Herd Unit and both were initiated around 1951. The feeding area at the Fall Creek Feedground encompasses Bureau of Land Management (BLM), NFS, and State managed lands. No facilities are located on NFS lands. A 32-year average of 632 elk have been fed 312 tons of hay for 131 days at Fall Creek Feedground each winter.

At Muddy Creek Feedground, the feeding area and facilities are located on NFS lands. A 32-year average of 575 elk have been fed 323 tons of hay for 145 days each winter. During winter 2005-2006, a 5-year experimental pilot project was initiated at this site to measure the potential for reducing brucellosis exposure rates in elk. Trapped elk are tested for brucellosis and infected elk are removed. A large, portable elk trap was erected on NFS lands for this project and approximately 150 yards of Forest Service Road #869 is plowed to allow trucks and trailers into the feedground during winter months. Additionally, approximately 1/2 mile of elk fence was erected on NFS lands across Muddy Creek Canyon to prevent elk from moving onto private lands.

See Appendix I for detailed summaries of number of elk, tons and days fed, number of dead elk, cost/elk, and tons fed/elk for each year since 1975.

During summer, WGFD personnel typically conduct maintenance on various structures (i.e., stackyards, and elk traps) on several feedgrounds. During fall, stackyards are stocked with certified weed-free hay transported on semi-trucks from various producers throughout Lincoln and Sublette Counties in Wyoming and from producers in nearby Idaho locations. Table 1 displays the average amount of hay delivered to each feedground annually.

**Table 1. Approximate number of trips to stock feedgrounds with hay.**

Feedground	Tons of Hay 32 Year Average	Approximate Truckloads
Alkali Creek	184	9.2
Dog Creek	425	21.25
Fall Creek	312	15.6
Fish Creek	270	13.5
Muddy Creek	323	16.15
Upper Green River	245	12.25

The majority of activity on feedgrounds occurs during the winter months. As winter nears, teams of draft horses are hauled or walked into the feedgrounds, except at Muddy Creek where the feeder utilizes a tractor. Elk behaviors are regularly observed by WGFD personnel and contracted elk feeders beginning in November to determine when feeding should be initiated. Several factors are weighed before feeding actually starts, such as number of animals in the area, amount of natural vegetation present, the possibility for co-mingling and damage, and knowledge of past elk movements.

Once the decision has been made to begin feeding the elk, the feedground supervisor or manager contacts the feeders. Two to three feeders are typically hired to feed in the Gros Ventre area. These feeders typically reside in the WGFC cabin at Patrol Cabin and utilize snowmobiles or horse teams to access all three feedgrounds. The feeder at Upper Green River is also housed in a WGFC cabin on the feedground. The feeder at Dog Creek and Muddy Creek typically drive into the feedgrounds daily to feed elk.

Elk feeders typically follow a daily routine of harnessing a team of horses and attaching them to the sleigh. They then load the sleigh with hay; except at Muddy Creek where the feeder utilizes a tractor to load hay and pull the sleigh. The feeder drives the team out onto the feedground area and distributes the hay to the elk. This process is repeated until enough hay has been spread to feed the number of elk on the feedground. The 32 year average of daily hay consumption is 8.05 lbs/elk.

The WGFD utilizes the winter months to classify the elk on the feedgrounds. This activity typically occurs in late January to February and is conducted once per feedground. Department personnel count numbers of branch-antlered bulls, spikes, cows, calves and the total number of elk on the feedground. This information is used to determine hunting seasons.

Although feedgrounds have been very effective in preventing elk depredating private crops, the artificial concentration of elk during winter and early spring perpetuates the disease brucellosis, caused by the bacterium *Brucella abortus* (Thorne et al. 1978). Transmission of *Brucella* typically occurs orally when cattle and/or elk come into contact with infected aborted fetuses, fetal membranes and fluids, or uterine discharges (Thorne et al. 1982, Cheville et al. 1998). Brucellosis seroprevalence of elk on feedgrounds averages 25 percent, while brucellosis seroprevalence in elk from herd units adjacent to feedgrounds varies from 0 to 22%. Elk completely independent of feedgrounds have no prevalence of the disease (WGFD 2007). Brucellosis infections in cattle can impact Wyoming's Brucellosis Free status, resulting in increased testing requirements and potential trade sanctions on Wyoming's cattle producers. A major role of elk feedgrounds today is to reduce the commingling of elk and cattle for concerns over elk-to-cattle brucellosis transmission. Thus, elk feedgrounds maintain the disease in elk while limiting elk-to-cattle transmissions at the same time. For further details see Appendix 2, "Elk Feedgrounds in Wyoming" (WGFD 2004).

Various disease management efforts are implemented on elk feedgrounds during winter. *Brucella* strain 19 vaccination of calves is conducted annually. Vaccination occurs in late January to March and is typically conducted by the feeder. Only calves are vaccinated and typically 100% of the calves on the feedground are inoculated. The WGFD also monitors the distribution and prevalence of brucellosis on 4-6 feedgrounds a year during winter. Permanent elk traps exist on Upper Green River, Alkali, Fish Creek, and Muddy Creek feedgrounds. Elk are trapped until a sufficient sample size for 85% confidence level for brucellosis exposure rate is reached. Since 2006 Muddy Creek Feedground has been used to initiate a pilot test and removal program recommended by the Wyoming Brucellosis Coordination Team. The program involves trapping large numbers of elk and removing sero-positive elk from the population.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has recently elicited more attention because of the concern that the disease will eventually affect elk wintering on feedgrounds in western Wyoming. CWD is a chronic, fatal disease of the central nervous system of captive and free-ranging mule and white-tailed deer, elk, and moose and belongs to a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform

encephalopathies (TSEs). Research suggests CWD is transmitted by animal-to-animal contact or via contamination of feed or pasture with saliva, urine and/or feces. CWD has been documented in eight states and one Canadian province, including Wyoming. To date, CWD has not been observed in elk in western Wyoming. The WGFC conducts CWD surveillance annually and detected the disease in a mule deer in 2007 within 80 miles of an elk herd unit with feedgrounds. The WGFC's *Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan* (2006) contains actions that will be implemented if CWD is identified in elk attending feedgrounds. This plan is attached to this document as Appendix 3 and can also be reviewed on line at <http://gf.state.wy.us/downloads/pdf/CWDPlanapprovedbycommission2-17-06.pdf>.

## **Purpose and Need for Action** \_\_\_\_\_

The Forest Service received a request from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC) to continue to use facilities on NFS lands to conduct their elk winter feeding and related management activities. Under 36 CFR 251.50, authorization is required for all uses of NFS land. This action is needed, because six existing authorizations for feedgrounds have expired or will expire within the next several years and because an expansion onto NFS lands is proposed adjacent to an existing feedground on State managed lands. The six existing sites are Alkali Creek, Dog Creek, Fall Creek, Fish Creek, Muddy Creek, and Upper Green River. The new site is Patrol Cabin. Two existing sites that are not studied in this analysis (Dell Creek and Forest Park) have existing authorizations that expire in 2016.

This action responds to the goals and objectives outlined in the *1990 Bridger-Teton National Forest Land Use and Management Plan* (FLRMP). The proposed permit areas are found mostly (about 75 percent) within Desired Future Condition Area 12 (Backcountry Big Game Hunting, Dispersed Recreation, and Wildlife Security Areas) with the remainder within Desired Future Condition Area 3 (River Recreation).

## **Proposed Action** \_\_\_\_\_

The Forest Service proposes to authorize the WGFC to continue the use and occupy NFS lands for their winter elk management activities. The specific areas included in this action include: Alkali Creek, Dog Creek, Fall Creek, Fish Creek, Muddy Creek, Patrol Cabin, and Upper Green River.

## **Decision Framework** \_\_\_\_\_

The Forest Service decision here is limited to the determination of whether or not the WGFC should be authorized to use NFS land for its winter elk management activities at the seven proposed locations and if authorized, what terms and conditions should be included in the authorization. The primary considerations for the Forest Service are the potential effects to land under its administration and any potential conflicts the WGFC operation may have with public uses and other National Forest programs.

## Public Involvement

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The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2007. The NOI asked for public comment on the proposal from July 23, 2007 to September 17, 2007. In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the agency mailed a scoping letter describing the proposed actions and requesting comments to approximately 75 people and organizations on July 18, 2007. A news release was published in the Jackson Hole News & Guide on August 8, 2007, describing the proposed use and inviting public comment. Public meetings were held in Jackson, Wyoming on August 28, 2007 and Pinedale, Wyoming on September 4, 2007. The scoping letter, mailing list, comments received, and summary of comments are in the project file.

A Draft EIS (DEIS) was prepared and distributed to the public. A Notice of Availability (NOA) for the DEIS was published in the Federal Register on March 21, 2008, and a legal notice of this availability was published in the Casper Star Tribune March 26, 2008. The DEIS was posted and was downloadable on the BTNF website, and hard copies were distributed upon request. Letters were sent to interested parties notifying them that the DEIS was available for review. The NOA informed the public that the review and comment period extended from 3/21/08 to 5/5/08. Public comment and the agency response to comment are documented in Appendix 4.

## Issues

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The Forest Service identified issues through the public scoping and comment process and the use of an interdisciplinary team of natural resources specialists. The following significant issues were used to develop alternatives to the proposed action because they are directly affected by the action proposed by the Forest Service:

**Issue #1. High concentrations of elk on the feedgrounds during certain soil conditions could cause soil compaction and/or increased erosion.** Alternatives are compared in this analysis describing the current percent of detrimental soil disturbance at the feedgrounds and comparing the potential number of acres affected by alternative.

**Issue #2. Use of the feedgrounds concentrates the elk, which could result in impacts to vegetation from browsing and trampling causing changes in vegetation type and condition, especially in sagebrush, aspen, and willow stands associated with riparian/wetlands. These vegetation impacts could affect wilderness qualities when feedgrounds are located near Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas.** Alternatives are compared in this analysis by a narrative describing the expected vegetation changes and by a comparison of acres affected by alternative.

**Issue #3. Use of the feedgrounds concentrates the elk, which could reduce stream bank stability and result in impacts to stream channel function. Surface water quality and fish habitat may also be affected by bank instability via sediment delivery and increased water temperatures.** Alternatives are compared in this analysis by considering the existing condition of stream banks within and adjacent to the feedgrounds, then comparing the extent of stream banks potentially affected by the alternatives.

**Issue #4. Use of the feedgrounds could impact elk, wolves, scavengers, and wildlife species that utilize sagebrush and riparian habitat.** Alternatives are compared in this analysis by a narrative describing the expected displacement and habitat changes by alternative.

Table 2 lists other issues identified and how they were addressed in the EIS.

**Table 2. List of Other Issues**

	Issue	How Addressed
1	Identify and disclose historical and existing migration corridors used by elk; analyze threats to continued migration; analyze potential for restoration of historical migration.	WGFD would continue to feed elk on private, state, or other federal lands, even if permits are not issued for these 7 feedgrounds. Because this activity would continue, the FS does not have the ability to affect the migratory behavior of the elk herds with this decision.
2	Use of elk feedgrounds concentrates the elk, which increases the risk of transmission of brucellosis from elk to elk, which in turn may increase potential of transmission of brucellosis to cattle.	Alternatives are compared in this analysis by acres of feedgrounds by alternative and a narrative describing potential for interaction between livestock and elk. Because it is projected that feeding would continue even if the use of NFS lands is not authorized, the Forest Service decision and alternatives would not affect the potential for brucellosis transmission between elk. A detailed discussion of brucellosis effects is contained in the WGFC <i>Brucellosis Management Action Plans</i> found at <a href="http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/Brucellosis/index.asp">http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/Brucellosis/index.asp</a> and the USDI <i>Bison and Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park</i> . These documents are incorporated into this analysis by reference.
3	Elk feedgrounds could become an infection source for transmission of CWD to elk, mule and white-tailed deer, and moose when CWD arrives in western Wyoming. Feedground soil could become contaminated with disease prions and be a reservoir for infection.	Because WGFD would continue to feed on private, state, and other federal lands even if permits are not issued for these 7 feedgrounds, elk will continue to congregate on State-managed feedgrounds regardless of this FS decision. The potential for CWD transmission through use of feedgrounds is addressed in the State's CWD Management Plan, Appendix 3 and the USDI <i>Bison and Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park</i> . Because it is projected that feeding would continue regardless of the Forest Service decision proposed here, this decision does not affect or control the potential for CWD transmission.
4	Elk feeding operations could contaminate ground water with fecal coliform bacteria.	This issue is not supported by scientific or factual evidence.
5	The agencies should spend money improving habitat instead of feeding nonnative forage to elk.	The Forest Service is working with other agencies to improve habitat on NFS lands. This issue is being addressed in other projects. However, habitat improvement projects cannot compensate for the loss of native winter range in the short-term, and would not affect the current needs for supplemental feeding.
6	Identify and assess the impact of livestock grazing upon elk transitional and winter range. Analyze forage availability and usage of forage by livestock and wildlife. BTNF must calculate the amount of forage on winter ranges available to cervids and the carrying capacity of the range: analyze if cattle allotments need to be adjusted to leave more forage for cervids.	Because WGFD would continue to feed on private, state, and other federal lands even if permits are not issued for these 7 feedgrounds, elk will continue to congregate on State-managed feedgrounds and therefore continue to under-utilize transitional and winter ranges regardless of the amount of forage available. Potential effects of livestock grazing have been addressed in the Forest Plan and in site-specific analyses for the authorization of livestock grazing.

	Weigh the public interest against the special interests of a few ranchers, who benefit by having forage on the winter range over-allocated to cattle; wildlife should have priority over cattle on public lands.	
7	Identify and analyze the threat of mineral development, especially natural gas on elk winter ranges.	This document analyzes the consequences of the proposed alternatives which are specific to 7 feedgrounds. Mineral development is not proposed on these feedgrounds.
8	WGFD should not have cooperating agency status. They are proponents of the project and are not objective.	CEQ regulations state that the Forest Service retains exclusive authority to make decisions on projects or programs for which it has responsibility by law. However it is appropriate that the FS grant cooperating status to State and local agencies due to complex jurisdictional and management issues related to federal lands and the fact that state and local governments manage lands and resources which are often near, adjacent to, or intermingled with federal land. Cooperating agency status is appropriate when a State agency, such as WGFC has specialized expertise with regard to any environmental issue. In this case, WGFC has specialized expertise concerning elk and other wildlife.
9	Analyze the economic impacts on tourism, recreation, big game hunting, and livestock interests of closing the feedgrounds versus keeping them open; especially the economic impacts of a CWD epidemic.	It is projected that WGFC would continue to feed elk on private, state, or other federal lands, even if permits are not issued for these 7 feedgrounds. Because this activity would continue, the Forest Service decision is not expected to change the economic effects to tourism, recreation, big game hunting, and livestock interests.
10	Elk should be protected instead of grown for hunters to kill.	The WGFC has the authority, jurisdiction, and responsibility to manage, control, and regulate fish and wildlife populations on NFS lands. The Forest Service is responsible for the management of NFS lands in Wyoming and the fish and wildlife habitats on these lands (FS Agreement # 00-MU-11020000-052).
11	Slaughter of seral positive elk is an indirect effect of feedground permits and should be stopped.	Test and removal is an elk management program run by the WGFC. The WGFC has the authority, jurisdiction, and responsibility to manage, control, and regulate fish and wildlife population on NFS lands. The FS is responsible for the management of NFS lands in Wyoming and the fish and wildlife habitats on these lands (FS Agreement # 00-MU-11020000-052).
12	Effects of brucellosis surveillance, vaccination, and the removal of seropositive elk	It is projected that the WGFC would continue these activities even if the use of NFS lands was not authorized. Therefore, the Forest Service decision would not change the effects of this program. Effects of the program are discussed in Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Brucellosis Management Action Plans located at <a href="http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/Brucellosis/index.asp">http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/Brucellosis/index.asp</a> .
13	A given population should be no larger than that which the habitat can support.	While the Forest Service manages habitat that supports wildlife the State of Wyoming manages elk herd numbers. Much of the native winter range for elk is not located on the National Forest, and is not available due to development and agriculture. The WGFC has determined the appropriate elk population levels, and implemented a management strategy to maintain those numbers in light of the winter range currently available. There are ongoing efforts to improve habitat on the National Forest, particularly winter range, but these efforts cannot compensate for the loss of native winter range in the short term.

## Other Related Efforts

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Documents that address issues related to supplemental elk feeding including disease, habitat impacts, and effects on other wildlife include:

- U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife and National Park Service. 2007. Bison and Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the National Elk Refuge and Grand Teton National Park
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Brucellosis Management Action Plans located at <http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/Brucellosis/index.asp>.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2007. Pinedale Elk Herd Unit Test and Removal Pilot Project Year Two: Muddy Creek Feedground 2007. Compiled by: Brandon Scurlock, Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat Program Supervisor; located at [http://gf.state.wy.us/downloads/pdf/RegionalNews/TR\\_report\\_2007\\_Final.pdf](http://gf.state.wy.us/downloads/pdf/RegionalNews/TR_report_2007_Final.pdf).
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 2007. Wyoming Gray Wolf Management Plan. Located at: <http://gf.state.wy.us/downloads/pdf/WolfFinal2007WyomingGrayWolfManagementPlan.pdf>.
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 2004. Elk Feedgrounds in Wyoming. Located at: <http://gf.state.wy.us/downloads/pdf/elkfg83004.pdf>
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 2006. Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan. Located at: <http://gf.state.wy.us/downloads/pdf/CWDPlanapprovedbycommission2-17-06.pdf>.

The first four documents are incorporated by reference as part of this EIS. The last two documents are appended to this EIS as Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

The *Bison and Elk Management Plan and EIS* describes the environmental effects of the elk management activities on feedgrounds on nearby Federal lands. Many of the issues and effects are similar to the proposed action on the BTNF. The *Brucellosis Management Action Plans, Test and Removal*, and *Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan* provide supplementary information concerning the prevalence, risks and consequences of these diseases. The *Wyoming Gray Wolf Management Plan* provides supplementary information about interactions between wolves and elk at feedgrounds and potential management actions that could be taken by WGFD personnel. Operating procedures and program history are described in *Elk Feedgrounds in Wyoming*.