

PINEDALE ANTICLINE PROJECT OFFICE (PAPO)

1625 West Pine
PO Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941
Attention: Project Coordinator 307-367-5386

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING
(use additional sheets if necessary)

1. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:

Miller 67 Ranch Conservation Easement

General Location (distance and direction from nearest city/town, attach map at a scale not less than 1/2" = 1 mile):

The project lies 2 miles west of Big Piney, Sublette County, Wyoming.

As shown on the attached maps, the project lies within 1 mile of the 4,438-acre Cross Lazy Two Ranch conserved in 2009 with JIO support; and within 5 miles of the Pam Chrisman ranch, and other conserved properties.

Legal Location of Project (attach map at a scale not less than 1" = 2,000').

Township: T 29, 30 N
Range: R 114, 112 W
Section(s): multiple
County: Sublette

Surface Ownership (check all that apply): Federal State Private

**If project includes a mosaic of land ownerships (e.g., mix of federal, state and/or fee lands), provide a breakdown for each specific owner by acres and percent of total project area.

Contact Information for Affected Parties or Agencies:

Miller Land and Livestock
67 Family Limited Partnership
% Mike and Tara Miller
P.O. Box 67
Big Piney, Wyoming 83113
(307) 276-3748

Acres Indirectly Affected (if applicable, explain)

The project indirectly affects significant acreage by permanently conserving important habitat for mule deer, sage-grouse, and other species impacted by development in the PAPA based on information collected by WGFD.

4. OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT, AND BENEFITS TO PAPO OFF-SITE MITIGATION STRATEGIC GOALS.

By conserving the 67 Ranch in perpetuity, this project seeks to mitigate the wildlife impacts associated with the PAPA by helping PAPO accomplish its Strategic Goal to, “Actively pursue projects to benefit wildlife on a landscape scale within the Upper Green River Basin with focus on those populations impacted by development on the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA).”

The ranch lies in WGFD’s Big Piney-La Barge Crucial Terrestrial Priority Area and provides critical habitat and migration routes for a variety of wildlife, including sage grouse, moose, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope, as well as 68 aquatic and terrestrial “species of greatest conservation need” identified by WGFD.

Specifically, this working ranch provides:

- 2.2 miles (885 acres) of migration routes, 890 acres of spring/summer/fall habitat, and 4,654 acres of winter/yearlong habitat for mule deer;
- 8 Sage-grouse leks within 4 miles (Calpet 1, Calpet 6, Calpet 7, Rifle Range, McDonald Draw, West Deer Hill, Deer Hill and Widowmaker);
- 5,544.4 acres of spring/summer fall habitat for pronghorn;
- 5,544.4 acres of winter/yearlong habitat for elk;
- 3,392 acres of crucial winter/yearlong habitat, 2,061 acres of winter habitat, and 200 acres of parturition area for moose; and
- ±5 miles Middle Piney Creek and ±4.5 miles of South Piney Creek.

The property also provides habitat for raptors like bald eagles, hawks and owls, as well as habitat for sandhill cranes.

Permanent conservation of the property will accomplish the PAPO’s wildlife goals by meeting the associated objective of, “Maintaining, conserving, restoring and/or enhancing habitat and habitat function both on-site and off-site for impacted species.”

This project will also conserve habitat that benefits multiple uses of natural resources by, among other things, improving the quality and quantity of wildlife populations on nearby public lands, demonstrating the compatibility of agriculture and wildlife habitat, and maintaining the area’s rich agricultural history and heritage. Additionally, restricting development of this property will positively impact the air and water quality by minimizing pollution associated with human disturbance.

5. DIRECT/INDIRECT EFFECTS ON OTHER RESOURCES. (if applicable)

This project's habitats and conservation purposes face threats from residential and commercial development. These threats stem from a variety of supply-and-demand factors described in Wyoming's State Wildlife Action Plan (2010). The SWAP identifies "rural subdivision" as one of the five leading wildlife conservation challenges in the state.

In reviewing the factors that drive the rural subdivision threat, several things related to this project deserve mention. First, according to the last Census of Agriculture, the average age of the principle operator in Sublette County is 56. Second, according to U.S. Census Bureau figures released in March 2011, Sublette County experienced 73 percent population growth between 2000 and 2010.

This project will eliminate or mediate the threat of residential or commercial development because the landowner will perpetually extinguish most of their property's development rights through the conservation easement. This will reduce habitat fragmentation, maintain connectivity, and forever compliment the agricultural and wildlife values associated with the public land in PAPO's service area long after mineral development has concluded.

6. POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE EXPANSION OF PROJECT. Explain

The project offers significant potential to expand the number of permanently-conserved acres in the area.

7. LIST ALL PROJECT PARTNERS/COOPERATORS, THEIR ROLES AND/OR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Landowner (financial contribution through qualified bargain sale)
- NRCS FRPP (financial contribution)
- WWNRT (financial contribution)
- WGFD (financial contribution)
- WGBGLC (financial contribution)
- WLCI (financial contribution)
- WLT and other partners (financial contribution)

8. PROJECT MONITORING AND REPORTING (Describe how monitoring and reporting will be done, and how it relates to the objectives)

Upon PAPO approval, WLT will begin due diligence (including completion of a resource or "baseline" inventory, surface mineral report, Phase I environmental assessment, title search and resolution of any outstanding title issues, and other necessary items). These items will provide a solid foundation from which WLT will monitor the property annually in accordance with its established stewardship practices. WLT based these practices on the Land Trust Alliance's *Standards and Practices*, which WLT (formerly the Green River Valley Land Trust) adopted in 2001.

Annual property monitoring by WLT will ensure the landowner – whether Miller or successors – honors the terms of the easement in perpetuity.

9. RESEARCH POTENTIAL

The project offers an opportunity for education, demonstration or scientific research for several reasons.

First, it is easily replicated in other landscapes or habitats in Wyoming through land conservation efforts by WLT and others.

Second, it includes a documented monitoring plan. In addition to the landowners’ day-to-day stewardship, WLT will monitor the conserved property annually in accordance with its established stewardship practices. WLT based these practices on the Land Trust Alliance’s *Standards and Practices*, which WLT (formerly the Green River Valley Land Trust) adopted in 2001. *Standards and Practices* serves as ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust. Implementing *Standards and Practices* helps land trusts like WLT uphold the public trust and build strong and effective land conservation programs. **In 2008, the independent Land Trust Accreditation Commission named WLT as one of the first accredited land trusts in the country and the first in Wyoming.**

By documenting the property’s current condition, maintaining detailed monitoring records of its condition each year, and providing a “laboratory” untainted by residential and commercial development, the project offers exceptional potential for future research in a wide variety of fields.

10. PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS REQUIRED PRIOR TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (including but not necessarily limited to the following):

PERMIT OR AUTHORIZATION	REQUIRED		SUBMITTED		APPROVED	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Cultural Resource Inventory		X				
COE Section 404 Permit		X				
Cooperative Agreement(s)		X				
NEPA Analysis		X				
Pesticide Application Permit		X				
Private Landowner Agreement(s)		X				
Sensitive Species Clearance		X				
Surface/Ground Water Permits		X				
T/E Species Clearance		X				
Other (explain)						

11. TOTAL PROJECT COST (Attach detailed budget)

Project Planning and Design	\$ <u>60,000</u>
Project Implementation	\$ <u>5,040,000</u>
Project Operation and Maintenance	\$ <u>40,000</u>
Total Required	\$ <u>5,140,000</u>

12. MATCHING FUNDS ANTICIPATED IN CASH (list source and amount)

Type	Source	Status	Amount
Planning and design	WLT donors	Pending	\$30,000
	JIO	Pending	\$15,000
	PAPO	Pending	\$15,000
Implementation (cons. ease.)	Landowner	Committed	\$1,634,500
	NRCS FRPP	Committed	\$2,520,000
	WWNRT	Committed	\$425,000
	WGFD	Committed	\$50,000
	WGBGLC	Committed	\$15,000
	WLCI	Pending	\$200,000
	JIO	Pending	\$195,500
	PAPO	Pending	\$195,500
	Operation and maintenance	WLT donors	Pending
	JIO	Pending	\$10,000
	PAPO	Pending	\$10,000
TOTAL			\$5,335,500

NOTE: The "total matching funds anticipated in cash" exceed the "total project cost" because WLT has requests pending for more than the estimated cost of the conservation easement. WLT does this to hedge against the possibility that certain funders may award less than the amount requested by WLT. If WLT receives the full amount requested from each "pending" funder, it will work with those funders to reduce their awards appropriately based on actual project costs.

13. ANTICIPATED "IN KIND" MATCHING FUNDS (list source, valuation, and valuation method)

N/A

14. PERCENTAGE OF FUNDING ON HAND OR COMMITTED

Subject to agreement with the landowner on bargain sale, WLT has 92% of the funding for the project in hand or committed.

15. TOTAL PAPO FUNDING REQUESTED: \$220,500

16. EXPECTED/ANTICIPATED LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP)

Perpetual X > 50 Years _____ 25-50 Years _____ < 25 Years _____

Explain Basis for Projected LOP: A perpetual conservation easement complying with Wyoming's Uniform Conservation Easement Act and Internal Revenue Code provisions and accompanying Regulations (if/as applicable).

17. PROJECT TIMELINE AND ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE. Explain

WLT will begin due diligence and fundraising for the balance of the project costs with PAPO support. WLT estimates completing the project within 12 months of PAPO's decision. WLT does not anticipate any problems with completing the project within that timeframe.

18. ATTACHMENTS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Project Design _____

Letters of Support _____

Management Plan _____ Long Term _____ Short Term _____ ¹

Monitoring Plan _____ Long Term _____ Short Term _____ ¹

Relevant Past Experience _____ Other _____ Explain:

¹ Long term is defined as greater than (>) 5 years; short term is less than (<) 5 years.

19. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PAPO CONSIDERATION

This project will help PAPO achieve its primary wildlife goal by maintaining and conserving habitat and habitat function for species impacted by development in the PAPA.

WLT thanks PAPO for considering its application and will gladly answer any questions or provide additional information on request.

20. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** this project and requested funding is subject to approval by the PAPO Pinedale Anticline Mitigation Management Board.

J. Ryan

Signed

Lara Ryan

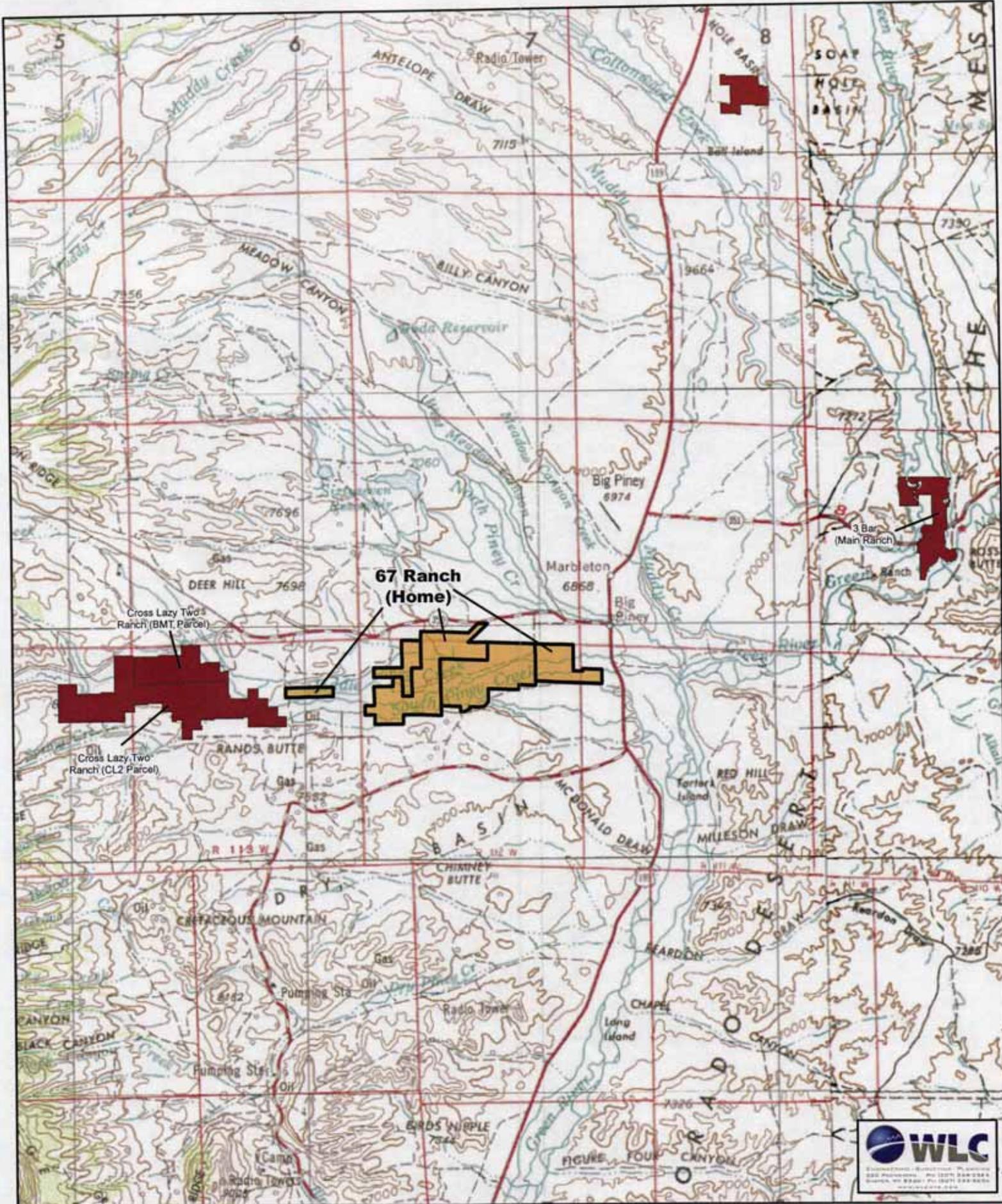
Printed Name

Exec. Director

Title

10/31/11

Date



Wildlife Habitat Overview
67 Ranch Lands
Sublette County, Wyoming

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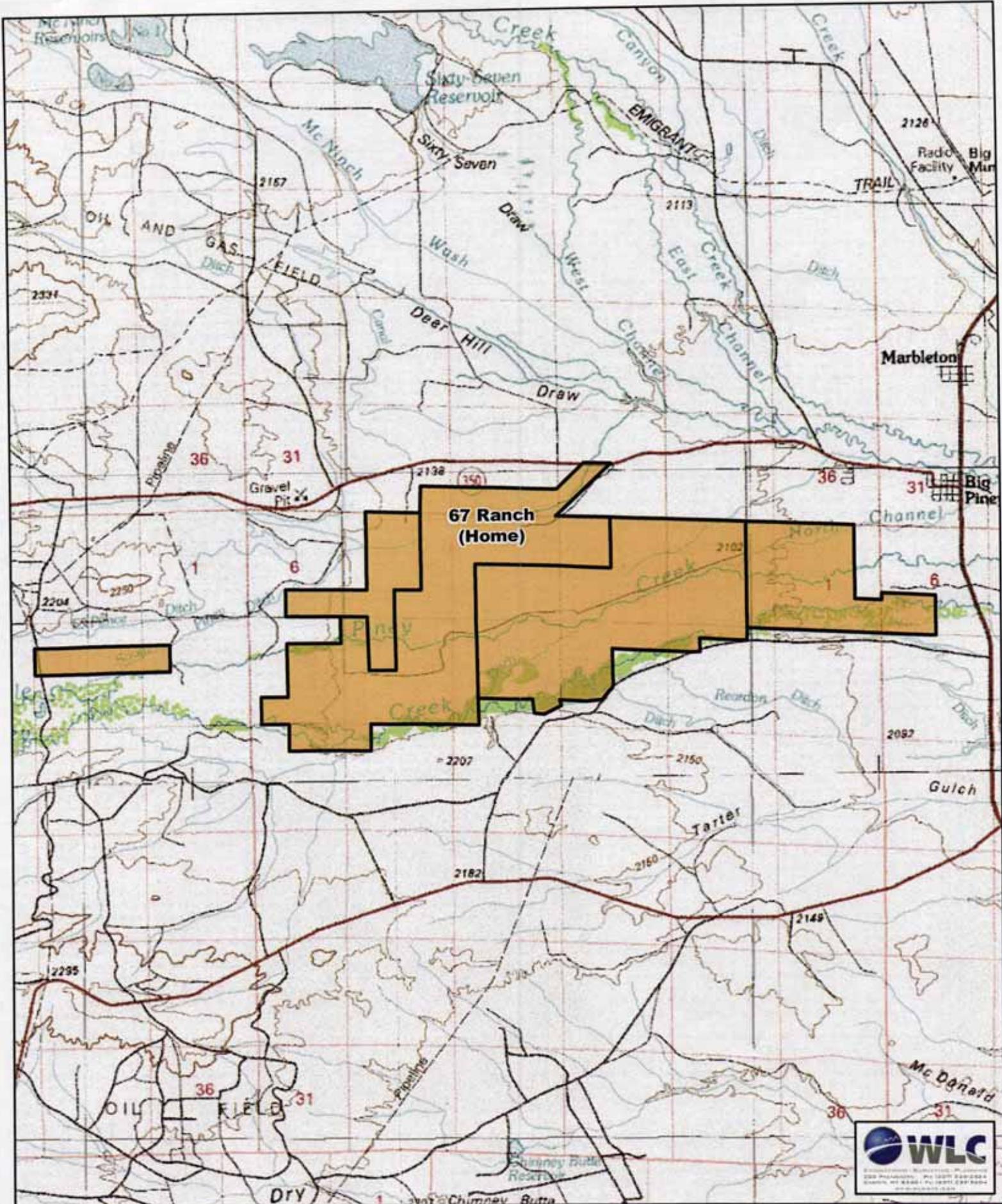


- Legend**
- Proposed Easement Boundary
 - 67 Ranch (Home) Lands
 - Existing Conservation Easements



WYOMING LAND TRUST
 PO Box 1580, Pinedale, WY 82941
 Ph: (307) 367-7007
www.wyominglandtrust.org

For Information Only



Wildlife Habitat Overview
67 Ranch Lands
Sublette County, Wyoming

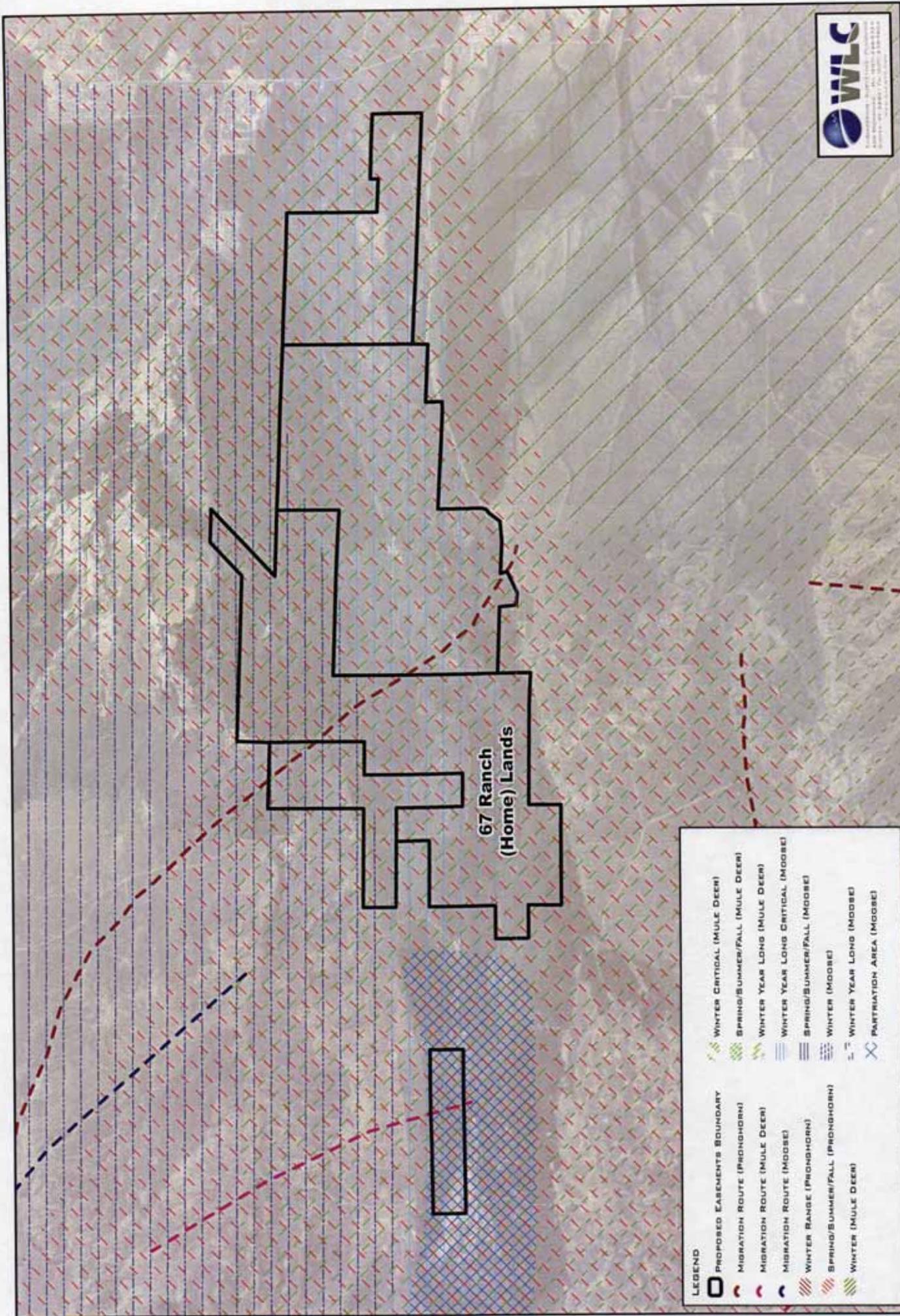


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67 Ranch
(Home) Lands

LEGEND

	PROPOSED EASEMENTS BOUNDARY		WINTER CRITICAL (MULE DEER)
	MIGRATION ROUTE (PRONGHORN)		SPRING/SUMMER/FALL (MULE DEER)
	MIGRATION ROUTE (MULE DEER)		WINTER YEAR LONG (MULE DEER)
	MIGRATION ROUTE (MOOSE)		WINTER YEAR LONG CRITICAL (MOOSE)
	WINTER RANGE (PRONGHORN)		SPRING/SUMMER/FALL (MOOSE)
	SPRING/SUMMER/FALL (PRONGHORN)		WINTER (MOOSE)
	WINTER (MULE DEER)		WINTER YEAR LONG (MOOSE)
			PARTURIATION AREA (MOOSE)

**Wildlife Habitat Overview
67 Ranch (Home) Lands
Sublette County, Wyoming**

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