

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: Mule Deer Winter Range Road Closure Patrol

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

Mesa, Ryegrass, and along the Wyoming Range Front

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

Township: T N

Range: R W

Section(s): ***Please See Map

County:

Surface Ownership (check all that apply): Federal X 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: Rusty Kaiser BLM 367-5317

2. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name/Organization: Rusty Kaiser BLM

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 768

City: Pinedale *State:* WY *Zip Code :* 82941

Daytime Phone # 307-367-5317 *Fax #* 307-367-5329

Email Address: rusty_kaiser@blm.gov

Point of Contact (if different from above)

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General Project Type (check all that apply):

Land Use/Livestock _____

Land Use/Recreation X _____

Cultural _____

Wildlife X _____

Air _____

Other _____

Describe Project Proposal (e.g., mechanical treatment, water improvement, etc.)

The Pinedale BLM has implemented road closures on crucial big game (particularly mule deer) winter ranges throughout the field office. These closures aim to minimize stress on wildlife during the crucial winter months. With only one BLM Law Enforcement Officer in Pinedale, education and enforcement of the closure becomes a daunting task. For the past three years, BLM staff have assisted with the education and enforcement of this closure on weekends and have been very successful in implementing the closure and informing the public about wintering wildlife and the stresses they encounter. With funds from the PAPO, two BLM staff would continue this effort by patrolling the winter closure areas each Saturday and Sunday from January 1-April 30.

Total Project Acres (if applicable)

The closures encompass over 500,000 acres of land within the Pinedale Field Office. The Mesa and Ryegrass winter ranges are included in this closure.

Acres Indirectly Affected (if applicable, explain)

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

Hall Sawyer, who has conducted extensive research on the Sublette Mule Deer herd, has identified the winter range road closures as providing direct benefits to the deer. If the public isn't aware of or doesn't abide by the closures, then the benefit of relieving stress to wintering wildlife is lost. By assisting with the education and enforcement of this closure, there will be continued direct benefits to the Sublette Mule Deer Herd. This effort is a landscape scale project that helps maintain the habitat function of winter ranges by reducing stress to animals. This helps accomplish Goal 1: Objective 1 of the Strategic Plan. The project also ties in well with Goal 2: Objective 2 in that it is a proactive approach to minimize the decreasing trend in mule deer populations. By reducing stress on pregnant does during the critical winter months, it is hoped that better parturition rates will occur.

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

Several different species of wildlife in the closure areas will benefit from the lack of traffic during the winter months. Besides big game, wintering and breeding sage grouse will also benefit. Raptors, plover, and a variety of other small birds and mammals would also benefit.

6. POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE EXPANSION OF PROJECT. Explain

This project could expand to other areas of the field office that aren't currently included within the closure that provide winter range for mule deer.

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

To make this project successful, there have been contributions by the Local Sage-Grouse Working Group, BLM, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Questar. Hundreds of signs have been purchased and posted in the closure areas and gates on the Mesa have been maintained and kept secure with high grade locks. Recently 6 kiosks were posted at key locations to assist in the education efforts of this closure.

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

On each patrol, we keep track of how many people we encounter and record and relay information to Law Enforcement when a violation occurs. A brief report of the patrols, including how many people were encountered and how many violations occurred, could be provided to the PAPO.

9. RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Several studies have been conducted to determine the effects of traffic on wintering wildlife. The results indicate negative impacts in overall health and changes in distribution. This type of research could be done using the closed and non-closed areas as treatment and controls to determine the effectiveness of the closure.

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		X		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) The Pinedale RMP addresses this closure and a Federal Register has been written and approved.

11. TOTAL PROJECT COST (Attach detailed budget)

Project Planning and Design	\$ _____
Project Implementation	\$ 20,000 _____
Project Operation and Maintenance	\$ _____
Total Required	\$ 20,000 _____

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

BLM would contribute \$10,000 to this effort.

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

BLM would be using their vehicles and any necessary field equipment.

14. PERCENTAGE OF FUNDING ON HAND OR COMMITTED

50%

15. **TOTAL PAPO FUNDING REQUESTED:** \$ 10,000

16. **EXPECTED/ANTICIPATED LIFE OF PROJECT (LOP)**

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

Explain Basis for Projected LOP:

17. **PROJECT TIMELINE AND ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE. Explain**

Winter range patrols would commence on January 1 and end on April 30. Ideally, money could be allocated for use for the 2013 patrols.

18. **ATTACHMENTS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Project Design _____

Letters of Support _____

Management Plan _____ Long Term _____ Short Term _____¹

Monitoring Plan _____ Long Term _____ Short Term _____¹

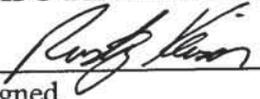
Relevant Past Experience _____ Other _____ Explain:

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

19. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PAPO CONSIDERATION**

With matrix thresholds for mule deer being met per the PAPA SIES ROD, it is imperative that the BLM do everything they can to maintain functioning habitat on mule deer crucial winter range. The range loses much of its function of keeping deer alive during the crucial winter months when people drive up and down roads to get a closer look at the critters. This often results in the animals running to less desirable areas of forage and cover to escape the perceived predator. By implementing this closure, we can assist with efforts to maintain mule deer habitat functionality on crucial winter ranges for the Sublette Mule Deer Herd.

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


Signed _____

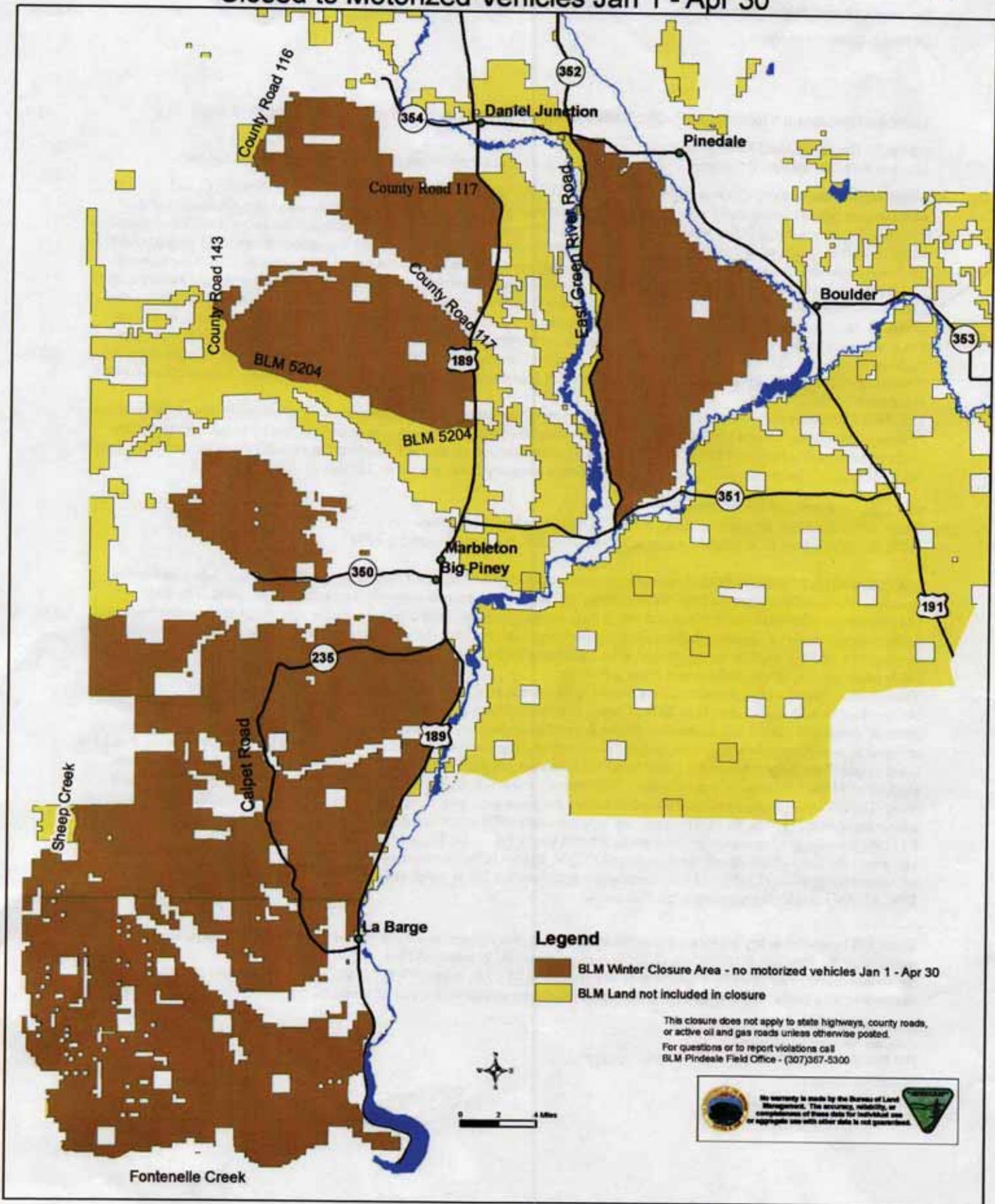
Rusty Kaiser
Printed Name

Wildlife Biologist (BLM)
Title

February 6, 2012
Date



Big Game Winter Closure Pinedale BLM Field Office Closed to Motorized Vehicles Jan 1 - Apr 30



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-2008-1110-PI]

Notice of Seasonal Closures of Public Lands to Human Presence and/or Motorized Vehicle Use

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,

Interior. **ACTION:** Notice of Seasonal Closures of Public Lands to Human Presence and/or Motorized Vehicle Use.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) subpart(s) 8341, 8364, and 9268, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the seasonal closure of certain BLM-administered public lands under the jurisdiction of the Pinedale, Wyoming Field Office to all types of motor vehicle use (*i.e.*, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and any other motorized vehicles including trucks, sport-utility vehicles, cars, motorcycles, etc.) each year during the period of January 1 through April 30. Elk feedground areas will be closed each year to any human presence from November 15 through April 30. This seasonal closure is needed to protect public lands and resources and to minimize stress to wintering elk, moose, pronghorn antelope, and mule deer. This seasonal closure affects public lands located within the Mesa, Ryegrass, Bench Corral, Deer Hills, Calpet, and Miller Mountain winter ranges as well as the Franz, Finnegan, Bench Corral, Scab Creek, Fall Creek, Black Butte, and North Piney elk feedgrounds as more particularly described in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below. Except for travel on highways or county roads, motorized vehicle travel within these areas will only be allowed with written authorization from the Pinedale Field Manager. Personnel of the BLM, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Department of Agriculture-APHIS and Forest Service,

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and law enforcement personnel are exempt from this closure only when performing official duties. Operators of existing oil and gas facilities may perform maintenance and pumping, as approved, and livestock operators may perform permitted activities. **DATES:** The seasonal motorized vehicle closure will be effective annually from January 1 through April 30. The no human presence closure will be effective annually from November 15 through April 30.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shane DeForest, Field Manager or Rusty Kaiser, Wildlife Biologist, telephone:
(307) 367-5300, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 768, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These crucial winter range habitat areas and the management thereof are addressed in the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP) Record of Decision which was approved on December 12, 1988. The RMP identifies areas of crucial winter range and states that seasonal closures for motorized vehicles may be used to protect big game winter range. Losses of wintering habitat from development activity can reduce the area available to the wintering animals. These impacts to wintering wildlife are compounded by significant human activity, such as day and night wildlife observation, still and video photography, snowmobiling, and antler gathering.

The following BLM administered lands are closed to motorized vehicles each year from January 1 through April 30: the Ryegrass, Bench Corral, Deer Hills, Calpet, and Miller Mountain winter ranges including all BLM administered lands north of Fontenelle Creek, east of the U.S. Forest Service Boundary, west of Highway 189, and south of Horse Creek, which contains approximately 444,000 acres; and the Mesa winter range including all BLM administered lands east of County Road 110 (East Green River Road), north of County Road 136 (Paradise Valley Road), west of the New Fork River, and south of State Highway 191, which contains approximately 76,000 acres; the Franz elk winter feedground (T36N, R112W) containing 680 acres. The following feedgrounds are closed to human presence each year from November 15 through April 30: the Finnegan elk winter feedground (T30N, R114W) containing approximately 1920 acres; the Bench Corral elk winter feedground (T31-32N, R112W) containing approximately 2560 acres; the Fall Creek elk winter feedground (T33N, R108W) containing approximately 160 acres; the Scab Creek elk winter feedground (T33N, R106-107W) containing approximately 2,240 acres; the North Piney elk winter feedground (T31N, R114W) containing approximately 1,080 acres; and the Black Butte elk winter feedground (T36-37N, R114W) containing approximately 320 acres.

Signs will be posted at key locations that provide access into the closure areas. Additional information and maps will be available at the Pinedale Field Office, 1625 West Pine, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

Seasonal closure orders may be implemented as provided in 43 CFR, subparts 8341.2 and 8364.1. Violations of this closure are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000.00, and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

Shane DeForest,

Pinedale Field Office Manager.

[FR Doc. E8-30952 Filed 12-29-08; 8:45 am]

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