

The Essential Pronghorn Corridor in the Greater Hart-Sheldon

The Greater Hart-Sheldon region straddles the Oregon-Nevada border and provides essential habitat for pronghorn, as well as hundreds of other sagebrush-dependent plants and animals. The region supported more than 8,000 pronghorn in 2016. However, populations have declined since then, with the most recent count at 4,313 animals in 2019. Information newly published by the U.S. Geological Survey highlights the critical importance of this landscape to the future of North America’s fastest land mammal.



Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*)

A MASSIVE CORRIDOR

The Greater Hart-Sheldon supports a 1.76 million acre migratory corridor for pronghorn.

The majority of this corridor — 62 percent — is on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

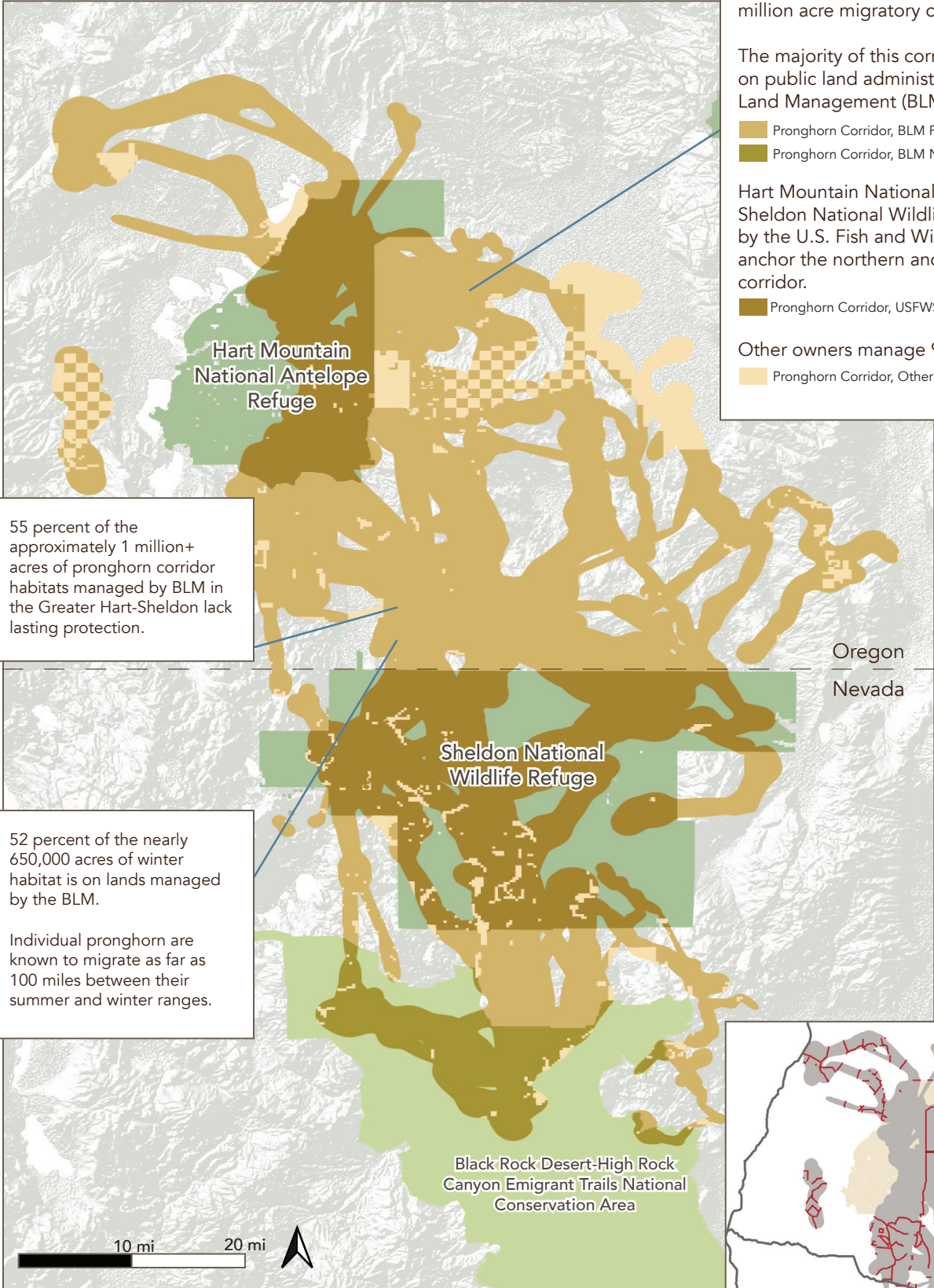
- Pronghorn Corridor, BLM Public Lands (55.5%)
- Pronghorn Corridor, BLM National Conservation Area (6.5%)

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), anchor the northern and southern ends of the corridor.

- Pronghorn Corridor, USFWS Public Lands (29%)

Other owners manage 9 percent of the corridor.

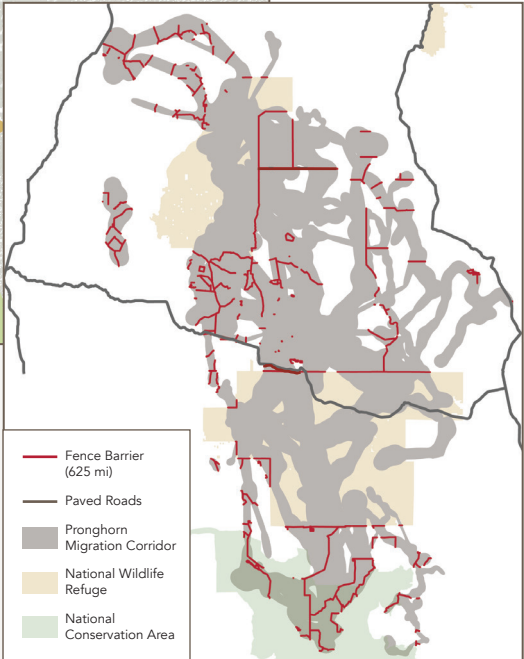
- Pronghorn Corridor, Other Land Ownership (9%)



Data sources

Kaufman, M., et al., (2022), Ungulate migrations of the western United States, volume 2: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2022-5008, 160 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20225008>.

Zeller, K. A., et al., (2021), Forecasting habitat and connectivity for pronghorn across the Great Basin ecoregion. Diversity and Distributions, 27(12), 2315-2329. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ddi.13402>



BARRIERS & PROGRESS

More than 625 miles of fencing cross the Greater Hart-Sheldon corridor, creating a safety risk for pronghorn that can become injured or trapped in the barbed wire.

Two decades ago even more miles of fencing crossed this region. Thanks to years of effort by conservation field staff and dedicated volunteers, the two refuges are fence free, with fence pulls completed at Sheldon in 2012 and at Hart Mountain in 2016.