

## APPENDIX F:

### Methodology (Wildlife)

This Appendix item refers the reader to Figure 2.7 in Chapter 2 of this EIS for additional information.

Because of the great variety and abundance of wildlife and wildlife habitats in the EIS area, especially adjacent to and west of the huge rock reefs of the face of the Front (Area A of Figure 2.7) it's extremely difficult to position a human activity such as oil and gas development activities. Since this portion of the EIS area contains over-lapping habitats and zones of influence for most of the wildlife species considered in this EIS, adhering to the RMFWG would make it impossible to find a 3-month timing window (the least amount of time necessary to drill a 6-8,000 foot well). In addition, virtually all rock reef habitats have known golden eagle or prairie falcon breeding pair or nest site locations.

Most of Area A in Figure 2.7 is occupied Rocky Mountain goat habitat, some portions are big horn sheep range, and some of it includes elk calving and deer fawning areas or functions as migration corridors or transitional range for these species. Much of the area provides summer and fall and designated denning habitat for grizzly bears. Important riparian areas and whitebark pine feeding sites also occur throughout this portion of the EIS area.

Locating human activities a mile east of the reef/or face of the Front (Area B of Figure 2.7) becomes more feasible because conflicts with Rocky Mountain goat, bighorn sheep and the principal raptor breeding habitats (golden eagle and prairie falcon) do not occur.

The area has exceptionally high seasonal wildlife value as spring grizzly bear habitat and elk and mule deer winter range, but a typical fall drilling window (or allowance of other human activity such as pipe laying, road construction) from September to December has been allowable. Some drilling (in the past) in this area has been moved forward or backward in timing depending on whether or not the area was a good fall/berry (Shephardia) feeding site for grizzly bear or a primary mule deer winter range site. If both, strict adherence to three months has prevailed, if not, some leniency over three months has been given.

Locating activities in Area C of Figure 2.7 are less of a problem because spring grizzly habitat and high value ungulate winter range is not prevalent.