

TransWild Alliance Newsletter



April 5, 2011

- 1) **Webinar:** FHWA Programs to Improve Environmental Outcomes
- 2) **Member Event:** I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition launches “Bridging Futures” contest
- 3) **Job Opening:** Communications Manager position with Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
- 4) **Job Opening:** Conservation Planner/Project Manager position with NatureServe
- 5) **Job Openings:** Conservation Associate and California Desert Associate positions with Defenders of Wildlife
- 6) **Call for Proposals:** EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Grant
- 7) **Newfoundland:** “Expert appalled at inaction on moose-vehicle collisions”
- 8) **Ontario:** “Drivers slow down in Ontario and reptile road kill drops”
- 9) **Florida:** “Student researches Florida university road kill for three years”
- 10) **Montana:** “Double trouble for a man who struck a bison with a BMW”
- 11) **Pennsylvania/New Jersey:** Volunteers help amphibians cross roads in PA and NJ
- 12) **North Carolina:** “NC held back crucial data on Monroe Bypass, documents say”
- 13) **Saskatchewan:** “Night vision could tame highway wildlife issue”
- 14) **Tanzania:** “Germany pressures Tanzania to change Serengeti road plans”
- 15) **Washington:** “Unusual number of beavers killed along busy road”
- 16) **Arizona:** “US FWS takes flat-tailed horned lizard off endangered list”
- 17) **Alberta:** “Environmentalists demand province step up grizzly protection”
- 18) **Turkey:** “Turkey to build wildlife crossings over highway”
- 19) **Wyoming:** “Winter highways require drivers to slow down for Wyoming wildlife”
- 20) **Arizona:** “Pima County RTA and Arizona DOT agree on wildlife crossings”
- 21) **Montana:** “Opponents warn against nullifying Endangered Species Act”
- 22) **U.K.:** “The multi-million pound secret transport network — for animals”
- 23) **California:** “On this military training ground, foxes aren't afraid of SEALs”
- 24) **Ontario:** “First overhead animal crossing planned for Ontario Hwy 69 widening”
- 25) **Idaho:** “New roadkill marking system to benefit project”
- 26) **U.S.:** “Study shows Westerners’ complex opinions on the environment”

(1) Free FHWA Eco-Logical Webinar

“Intersections between Eco-Logical and PEL: FHWA Programs to Improve Environmental Outcomes”



Wednesday, April 6 from 2:00 - 3:30 PM Eastern

This next free webinar in the Eco-Logical webinar series will highlight two FHWA programs that integrate planning and environmental review processes to achieve better transportation and environmental outcomes, including **overviews of the Eco-Logical and Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) programs**, guidance for practitioners on integrating Eco-Logical and PEL into practice, and case studies from both programs from the MPO perspective. **NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED.**

Link to join: <http://fhwa.adobeconnect.com/eco/> **To access audio portion:** 1-800-683-4564, **passcode** 497179

(2) I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition launches “Bridging Futures” contest

<http://www.i90wildlifebridges.org/bridgingfutures.htm>

WSDOT and I-90 WBC have kicked off the 7th annual “Bridging Futures” contest to **incorporate transportation and wildlife safety education into WA state elementary school classrooms**. Students are invited to submit art renderings and essays depicting what a wildlife crossing might look like and how they function. In the past they’ve posted the top ad from eastern and western WA onto billboards for one month, but this year they’ll be framing the **Top 10 ads for a roadshow of displays** in businesses and events all along the I-90 corridor.



April 5, 2011

(3) Communications Manager position available with Y2Y

http://www.y2y.net/data/1/rec_docs/981_Communications_Manager_Job_Description_April_2011.pdf

Position located in **Canmore, Alberta**. Responsible for providing a broad range of communications services to Yellowstone To Yukon Conservation Initiative, including planning, writing and editing, design and layout, website maintenance and media relations. The incumbent will have a B.A. in English, Communications, Public Relations, Journalism, Marketing or related field and 3 years professional experience, proven written and oral communication skills, and experience with website management, both technical and creative aspects.



(4) Conservation Planner/Project Manager position available with NatureServe

<http://www.natureserve.org/aboutUs/jobs/conservationPlanner.jsp>

Position located in **Arlington, VA**. Develops, conducts, and manages conservation planning projects, programs, and initiatives as part of a collaborative team of internal staff and external partners. Acts as the lead or supports the Department Director in managing programs and projects. Conducts all facets of conservation planning work and also contributes methodology, training, and support for NatureServe Vista, a conservation planning software.



(5) Conservation Associate and CA Desert Associate positions available with Defenders



http://www.defenders.org/about_us/jobs/conservation_associate.php

Conservation Associate position located in **Washington, DC**. Responsible for implementing assigned workplans for the Field Conservation Programs division. Serves as special projects coordinator, finding creative solutions to cross-cutting emerging issues affecting field offices with focus on carnivores. Responsibilities include developing and implementing programs, initiatives, strategies, campaigns, and projects, focusing on proactive species restoration efforts. Current program focus areas include prey/predator relationships and predator control as they relate to carnivore conservation and "Living with Wildlife" through development and promotion of human/wildlife coexistence projects and application of human/wildlife conflict management practices.

http://www.defenders.org/about_us/jobs/california_desert_associate_%28biologist%29.php

California Desert Associate (Biologist) position located in a community in or near the West Mojave Desert, CA. Responsible for developing and implementing work plans for the California Desert and Renewable Energy Program with a focus on renewable energy project siting on desert lands and the creation of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Serves as a desert biologist and liaison to other orgs and agencies. Requires excellent communications and writing/editing skills in order to assist with drafting and revising documents and publications.

(6) EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Grant Funding

<http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

The U.S. EPA is accepting grant applications for \$1.9 million in funding for environmental education projects and programs to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000 and will accept **applications until May 2, 2011**. The grants provide support for innovative projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques involving activities beyond disseminating information.



April 5, 2011

(7) March 31: “Expert appalled at inaction on moose-vehicle collisions”

<http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2011-03-31/article-2384587/Expert-appalled-at-inaction-on-moose-vehicle-collisions/1>

Tony Clevenger with the **Western Transportation Institute** wrote a report for the Save Our People Action Committee which stated that while moose density in Newfoundland is one of the highest in the world, the provincial Dept. of Transportation and Works is **not implementing proven highway mitigation practices**, such as fencing, to reduce the accidents. “The Newfoundland government is misleading public and inaccurate when indicating that there is little that can be done other than rest sole responsibility on motorists to avoid collisions with moose (be aware and informed; slow down) and by clearing brush from the sides of highways to increase driver visibility.” He said **clearing brush might actually make the problem worse** by drawing moose to highway right-of ways.



(8) March 31: “Drivers slow down in Ontario and reptile road kill drops”

I ♥ LONG POINT



<http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2011/03/29/17801446.html>

Reptile roadkill has dropped 56% in the past three years along Ontario’s 3.6 km **Long Point Causeway**, which bisects Big Creek Natl. Wildlife Area and Long Point Bay. Built in 1926-1927 across wetlands to provide beach access to Lake Erie, it likely would never have been built under today’s regulations. Conservationists who have **installed fences and posted warning signs** say a tally of weekly roadkill numbers for the past three summers has found road deaths of turtles and snakes down to 113 in 2010, compared with 258 in 2008. A 1990s census showed more than 10,000 animals killed per year, including reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds. But now drivers can be seen stopping to help turtles cross the road or wait while frogs and snakes get across. This year, the **Long Point Causeway Improvement Project Committee** has plans to install three **eco-passages** designed to allow critters to cross under the road. A total of 11 are planned. The group receives funding in part from **Environment Canada’s Habitat Stewardship Program** and from **Ontario’s Species at Risk Stewardship Fund**.

(9) March 30: “Student researches Florida university road kill for three years”



<http://www.eaglenews.org/student-researches-university-road-kill-3-years-1.2526055>

Jared Knotts of **Florida Gulf Coast University** walks his four-mile survey route along FGCU’s main entrance roads three consecutive days a week. He has seen about 5,000 road killed animals in two years, and his data indicate that **18 vertebrates are being killed each day on the two roads**. Knotts plans to share his research with the university at the end of the semester, and will propose a **redesign of the curves** along the side of the road which currently funnel turtles and other vertebrates into storm drains. Plus, students as well as wildlife would benefit from a **lower speed limit** of 25 mph.

(10) March 28: “Double trouble for a man who struck a bison with a BMW”

http://www.westyellowstonenews.com/news/article_b60e37c4-5936-11e0-b480-001cc4c03286.html

The driver of a BMW received only minor injuries after striking and killing a 1,750 lb male bison with his vehicle while traveling northbound on Hwy 191 out of West Yellowstone in Montana. Another vehicle struck and killed a female bison the following evening near the intersection of Hwy 191 and Ecology Lane. The **junction between Hwy 287 and Hwy 191 is a high traffic area with bison** this time of year as they begin their spring migration and scavenge for food.



April 5, 2011

(11) March 26 & 27: Volunteers help amphibians cross roads in PA and NJ

<http://dailylocal.com/articles/2011/03/26/news/srv0000011235275.txt?viewmode=fullstory>

Northern Chester County is famous for having the best vernal pool in southeast Pennsylvania. In the St. Peter's wetland in North Coventry, a pond supports the rare four-toed salamander and the Jefferson salamander, an amphibian on the verge of extinction. Since 2002, volunteers recruited by the **West Vincent Environmental Advisory Council, Wildlife Friends,** and the **Amphibian Preservation Alliance** have helped amphibians cross PA roads during breeding season in Feb. and March.



http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/03/taking_a_leap_in_the_dark_for.html

In an effort to preserve future generations of spotted and Jefferson salamanders, wood frogs and spring peepers, New Jersey organizations have been sending volunteers to help amphibians cross northern NJ roads for nearly a decade. The **Amphibian Crossing Project** is jointly sponsored by the **Conserve Wildlife Foundation, the New Jersey Audubon Society,** and the **NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Program.**

(12) March 23: "NC held back crucial data on Monroe Bypass, documents say"

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/03/23/2164400/nc-held-back-data-on-bypass-documents.html>

Emails and documents suggest the N.C. Turnpike Authority didn't give the federal govt. a true account of how a proposed \$800 million toll road would affect the environment, which made it easier for the highway to get approvals necessary for construction. When conducting its "no build" study, the authority used data that assumed the Monroe Connector/Bypass highway was already in place, according to the **Southern Environmental Law**



Center which has filed a lawsuit to stop construction, scheduled to begin this year. That means the **Turnpike Authority didn't do a true "build vs. no build" study** - comparing instead building the road to building the road. Environmentalists believe the bypass will encourage people to live along the toll road route, **encouraging sprawl,** and that the existing U.S. 74 could be improved for far less money.

(13) March 22: "Night vision could tame highway wildlife issue"

<http://www.thestarphoenix.com/Night+vision+could+tame+highway+wildlife+issue/4481025/story.html>

According to Saskatchewan Government Insurance, vehicles on Saskatchewan highways are hitting wildlife (mostly deer at night) at a rate of about 40 per day. Mercedes-Benz now offers as an option on its high-end models a **night-vision system that makes wildlife, along with pedestrians and cyclists, visible to the driver even on the darkest night.** Turn on the system and the car's digital instrument panel becomes the night-vision display screen. But you still have to consciously slow down.



(14) March 21: "Germany pressures Tanzania to change Serengeti road plans"

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,14922359,00.html>

Germany has offered to finance a study looking at alternative ways to connect border villages to the existing road network without cutting a **highway through the Serengeti National Park,** as well as to jointly finance an international feasibility study for an alternative route circumventing the park via the south. In return, they expect a moratorium on building a road through the Serengeti until the alternatives have been assessed. Tanzania's president has killed a **World Bank proposal** to help finance a southern route favored by conservationists, saying that it "would not solve transport challenges of communities living on the northern side of the park."



April 5, 2011

(15) March 17: “Unusual number of beavers killed along busy road”

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110317/NEWS01/703179917&SectionCat=NEWS01>

Seven beavers were struck and killed by vehicles in a 50 yard stretch of a busy Mill Creek road in Everett, WA. It’s very unusual for that many beavers to be travelling together, but biologists suspect that heavy rains ruined the beavers' lodge and they went looking for new digs. March is typically one of the wettest months of the year, and this year has been wetter than usual. Flooding is common in the intersection where the beavers were found, and **wetlands lie on either side of the road.** Adult beavers measure more than 3 ft long and weigh 40 lbs on average.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2014592104_beavers25m.html

Jamie Jaegel took the road killed beavers to the Burke Museum on the UW campus. The Mill Creek beavers were too badly damaged to yield full skeletons, but sections of skull and bone, along with tissue samples from internal organs, will be welcome **additions to the museum's specimen and genetic resources collections.**



(16) March 15: “US FWS takes flat-tailed horned lizard off endangered list”

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/lizard-68417-agency-species.html>

After a court-ordered analysis of the flat-tailed horned lizard's status, the U.S. FWS determined threats to the species “are not as significant as earlier believed” and that the species does not need protection under the Endangered Species Act. Among numerous other threats, **the construction of roads significantly contributes to loss and degradation of the lizard's historic habitat.** When facing potential danger, the flat-tailed horned lizard immediately freezes. On a road, this leads to **lizard roadkill.** In response, Arizona DOT has fenced 18 miles of the Robert A. Vaughan Expressway in Yuma County, funneling the lizards to reptile underpasses. Now that the lizard is no longer listed, will species-specific conservation plans and strategies continue to be maintained?



(17) March 15: “Environmentalists demand province step up grizzly protection”

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/travel/Environmentalists+demand+province+step+grizzly+bear+protection/4445390/story.html>

Grizzly bear mortality rates in Alberta for 2010, with recorded totals still at 21, were the same as last year, and one more than 2008's total of 20. But up to 40% of grizzly deaths are estimated to go unreported every year.

"Reducing road densities and managing motorized access in Alberta's foothills must be the focus of government action, and the continuing high levels of grizzly deaths make it more urgent than ever," added Wendy Francis of Y2Y. The 2008 provincial grizzly recovery plan links grizzly mortality to their proximity to human access routes — within Alberta’s central Rockies, 89% of human-caused grizzly mortalities were within 500 m of a road. In the national parks, 100% of human-caused mortalities were within 200 m of a road.



(18) March 12: “Turkey to build wildlife crossings over highways”

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-237986-turkey-to-build-wildlife-crossings-over-highways.html>



Turkey’s Environment and Forestry Minister has said his ministry will demand that the General Directorate of Highways build wildlife crossings to connect wildlife habitats disrupted by highways. “We will not allow for the building of roads which pass through wildlife areas without these special bridges. **The first green bridge has already been constructed over the Ankara-Adana highway.** And I have given orders that others like it be built over other highways.”

April 5, 2011

(19) March 10: “Winter highways require drivers to slow down for Wyoming wildlife”

<http://www.littlechicagoreview.com/view/bookmark/12276128/article-Winter-highways-require-drivers-to-slow-down?instance=news>
Scenes like this one, when on Nov. 23, 2010, on US 189 south of Kemmerer, where 54 antelope were killed by a semi truck driving too fast for conditions, are becoming more common. Wyoming Game and Fish attributes these situations to winter conditions and vehicle speeds in areas that have always been considered crucial winter range. During the five-year period that ended in 2010, **reported collisions with wildlife in Wyoming has increased by more than 17%** from the previous five-year period. During this period, **11 people were killed and more than 500 were injured** with more than 10,000 vehicles damaged.



(20) March 9: “Pima County RTA and Arizona DOT agree on wildlife crossings”

http://explorernews.com/news/article_e4df21be-49da-11e0-9031-001cc4c002e0.html

A dispute over who would pay the initial costs of three planned wildlife crossings along Oracle Road near Oro Valley arose last summer, but the Pima County Regional Transportation Authority and Arizona DOT have now reached an agreement. The state plans to begin the project sometime in 2012 or 2013. **Carolyn Campbell and the**



Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection have largely been the impetus for the wildlife-crossing proposal. The Coalition lobbied the town to include a large section of open space in the annexation area that would remain free from development, and the group sought to secure RTA funding for wildlife crossings to facilitate animal migrations btwn the Santa Catalina and Tortolita Mtn. ranges.

(21) March 8: “Opponents warn against nullifying Endangered Species Act”

<http://www.greatfalltribune.com/article/20110309/NEWS01/103090310/Opponents-warn-against-nullifying-species-act?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage> (cut and paste link into web browser)

Opponents of a measure to nullify the federal ESA told the House Appropriations Committee that doing so would cost the state of Montana hundreds of jobs and billions of dollars in federal aid for highways and other state projects. Rep. Krayton Kerns, R-Laurel, is pushing **House Bill 321, which would declare the ESA "null and void" in Montana.**

"If we can't comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, which we have to do in expending federal dollars on our state highways, then we could not spend that federal dollar that comes into the state of Montana," said Jim Lynch, director of Montana DOT. Representatives from the state's construction sector said **loss of those federal dollars would translate to a loss of thousands of jobs in the state.**



(22) March 6: “The multi-million pound secret transport network — for animals”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/8363736/Revealed-the-multi-million-pound-secret-transport-network-for-animals.html>

In the past two years, British councils and government agencies have spent almost **£8.5 million on at least 270 projects to build a network of tunnels, crossings and ramps designed to help wildlife navigate its way around Britain's highway network.** They include tunnels to guide otters, badgers, newts and water voles beneath roads; a bridge to carry dormice over a highway; a fish ladder; and "owl ramps", which are roadside barriers to ensure the birds fly high enough off the ground to avoid being hit by lorries.



April 5, 2011

(23) February 28: “On this military training ground, foxes aren’t afraid of SEALs”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/environment/la-me-island-fox-20110228,0,2188163,full.story>



On the 22-mile-long San Clemente Island with a ship-to-shore/air-to-ground bombardment range on its south end, beaches for amphibious assault training on the north and a heavily traveled road down its spine, **the most serious threat to the native San Clemente Island fox is death by collisions with military vehicles.** Last year alone, 65 foxes were killed on island roads, but efforts are currently underway to mitigate the threat such as reduced speed limits, signage, educational programs, research studies, prohibition of pets, mowing roadsides for visibility, and a fox hospital.

(24) February 25: “First overhead animal crossing planned for Ontario Hwy 69 widening”

<http://dcnonl.com/article/id43072>

About 115 km of Hwy 69 between Parry Sound and Sudbury in Ontario is being expanded to four lanes, and the Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Natural Resources have partnered on the construction of a **30 m wide wildlife overpass and associated fencing** in an area of frequent wildlife-vehicle collisions. Completed at the end of 2010, the bridge will be landscaped and ready for animal traffic by the fall of 2011.



(25) February 24: “New roadkill marking system to benefit project”

http://www.cdapress.com/news/outdoors/article_6c055fc9-5c9c-510f-90de-8cf4674ddbaa.html

A new bright orange roadkill paint marking system is part of an effort by the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and the Idaho Transportation Dept. to understand the effects of roads and vehicle collisions on Idaho's wildlife and on public safety. The agencies record info such as species, gender, age and location. Efforts are focused on big game, but include other species as well. Once an agency has recorded the info, they mark the carcass with orange paint so as to avoid duplication prior to carcass removal. **Data collection forms are standardized among the agencies and historic roadkill data has been entered into a statewide database.**



(26) February 23: “Study shows Westerners’ complex opinions on the environment”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/02/23/colorado-collegesponsored_n_827445.html

The study commissioned by Colorado College's *State of the Rockies Project* surveyed 2,200 voters in CO, WY, NM, UT, and MT from Jan. 23-27, and was conducted by both a Republican and a Democratic research firm. They found that 77% of those surveyed believe that it's possible "[to] protect land and water and have a strong economy with good jobs at the same time, without having to choose one over the other." And 71% of self-described Tea Party supporters say that environmental regulations can coexist with a strong economy. Plus, 87% of Western voters say that "having clean water, clean air, natural areas, and wildlife" is important to quality of life. Climate change and global warming issues rank below 11 other environmental issues in importance to Western voters, and 51% express skepticism of global warming.

“Conservation in the West: A Survey of Attitudes of Voters in Five Western States”

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/49431865/ConservationWestSurvey-02-20-11ev1>

