

ROAD WATCH IN THE PASS: FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING
CROWSNEST PASS PROVINCIAL BUILDING
FEBRUARY 13, 2006

Following is a brief summary of the first Road Watch Committee Meeting and a list of the action items that were generated. We plan to hold another committee meeting in six months time. As always, we welcome and encourage all ideas, comments and input into the various facets of Road Watch, and are always keen to welcome new participants and volunteers. If you have any comments on the action items, would like to help out or have new ideas please contact Janet at jcquin@telus.net or on the 24-hour wildlife hotline at 564-4833.

Promotion of Road Watch

1. Brainstorming session of possible groups to approach regarding Road Watch presentations and information sessions (to engage people to use Road Watch and increase awareness about the results)
 - Alberta Fish and Game
 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
 - Bighorn Sheep working group
 - Quad squad
 - Snow Riders
 - Citizens on Patrol
 - Lundbreck School
 - Alberta Fish and Wildlife
 - Alberta Public Lands and Forestry division
 - ACA
 - RCMP

2. Promotional Action Items
 - Participant updates posted and available around the Crowsnest Pass and Lundbreck; such as posting in local grocery stores and coffee shops.
 - Participant updates in the local newspapers

- Wildlife Photo contest
- Message on local news: highway accident statistics, costs of accidents involving wildlife, mortality info.
- Laminated maps with markers for specific groups to use to mark observations: Fish and Wildlife, Burmis Weigh scales, Lundbreck and CNP schools
- Student poster contest
- Road Watch notepads
- Participant opportunities page added to website

3. Education

- We discussed ideas and suggestions for promoting Road Watch within the community. A key message from participants is communicating the significance of how Road Watch data can affect all of us in ways such as insurance rates, human and wildlife safety. Citizens should be informed on what is happening with Road Watch, the importance of the data, and effective follow-up with the community on a regular basis.
- Approach the Insurance Industry for stats, information support and funding ideas. Ways to avoid and prevent accidents, compare and contrast to other provinces and highways. Develop an educational bookmark for distribution and public education about wildlife traffic mortality in the Pass.
- Signage regarding wildlife traffic mortality hotspots along the Highway. In Jasper National Park they developed a red flag program- where each road kill was marked by a red flag on the side of the road. Over time this creates an awareness of how many animals are being killed on the Highway. If this activity is pursued it would require Municipal Council and Volker Stevins support.
- Adopt and paint elk signs every two years, adding mortality numbers to the sign. Organize logistics with Jim Clark as a Road Watch volunteer event.

Result Dissemination

1. Letter to Minister requesting update on Highway 3 construction and to promote Road Watch in the Pass.
2. Meetings with AB Transportation and consultants to present the project and preliminary results.
3. Contact Nestor Chorney regarding meeting with council, links to specialized groups and committees within the next six months.

On-line mapping tool

We continue to welcome and encourage feedback and suggestions regarding the online mapping tool developed by Ken Sanderson of Miistakis. Some suggestions we plan to implement include:

- Adding in landmarks (windmill, former Burmis sawmill)
- Changes to the legend, include symbols/color coding for each species
- Change time field to 24 hour clock
- Feedback for participants when they log in on the number of records added to the database.