

**Road Watch in the Pass
Committee Meeting
April 4, 2007**

Attendance:

Tracy Lee (Miistakis)
Janet Quinn (Project Coordinator)
Eight Road Watch participants

Tracy provided an overview presentation highlighting Road Watch successes and challenges over the last 2.5 years.

The following topics were discussed as a group:

Railway Line

- There was general concern about the lack of information on wildlife mortality rates associated with CP Rail. We discussed if it is possible for Road Watch to address this issue. Do the high collision zones on the highway match the railway collision zones where they run parallel? We decided to add in the railway as an option on the form so participants can specify if the observation is related to the railway. Jim has a contact at CP Rail, if we need to talk to them about this component. This is an issue that will likely require more discussion in the future.

Community Action Event

We talked about the success of the last community action event, painting the elk warning signs. How can we build on this and continue to address wildlife transportation issues through action? Suggestions included:

- Dynamic signage in key locations (i.e. Lundbreck area, where there are a number of high collision zones).
- Make use of existing signs but add road kill numbers along the highway, viewable from the vehicle.
- Infrared sensors (make sure we explore the possibility of other mitigation measures other than just signage).
- Loretta volunteered to assist Tracy in working with AIT to work toward mitigation, as through some of the suggestions above.
- Work with Volker Stevin to use their message board to list number of road kill along sections of Highway 3.
- Think about using the number of Road Watch observations instead of, or as well as, mortality numbers.

Participant Updates

- A good participant update would be an assessment of the Bighorn sheep near Blairmore to see if the number of observations has decreased as a result of Fish and Wildlife's efforts to chasing them off the highway. This would be a great way to document the success of the Fish and Wildlife project through the use of Road Watch data.

Research (explore)

- Is there a possibility of placing camera in areas where we have low representation along the highway?

Promotion

- Put a request on the news page for more digital photos of wildlife along the highway and then post them on the website. This may encourage people to keep checking the website. (Side note that Bill Pisko may be a good source for photos).
- Road Watch key chains (logo, website and phone number)
- Road Watch notebook with map of highway and key local landmarks
- Road Watch phone pads
- Increase prize values, volunteer recognition and appreciation is really important, continue positive relationship building
- T-shirts
- Magnets on the side of vehicles
- Car thermal mugs with Road Watch on the side as prize draws
- Attend trade fairs to promote Road Watch; Bill volunteered to spend time at a promotional booth
- New contest for children; draw their own solutions to how wildlife can safely cross Highway 3; possibly tie this into the Wildlife Crossing Structure Exhibit. Winning pictures could be put on the website, participant updates and Road Watch posters

Mapping tool

- Additional landmarks would be great (Rob will GPS new landmarks to add to the mapping tool).

Data collection

- Project Coordinator phone key individuals once a week to record their observations for the highway, (would need to have an agreement in place)
- Provide forms and drop off point for those not interested in using a computer

Systematic Driving surveys

- make sure it is flexible and data entry is fast
- laminated maps of each participants segment may be helpful
- only interested if assigned to sections participants already regularly drive.
- tape recorders may be helpful.
- UNBC developed GPS units with a buttons for each species (deer, elk, bighorn sheep, moose and deer), the unit records date, time, location and species. Tracy will look into possibility of getting something like this for Road Watch.
- one individual is assigned to entering data from the driving surveys from tape recorders.
- a variety of data collection options may best match participants' needs

Road Watch Opportunities

- The wildlife crossing exhibit from the Whyte Museum in Banff will be on display in the Crowsnest Pass from May-June 2007. It may be possible to add a section on Road Watch to this presentation; Contact, Melissa (CCS).
- Tony Clevenger from Western Transportation Institute (WTI), associated with the Montana State University has been asked to speak to Council about wildlife mitigation across Highways. Tony is recognized as a leader in the field of Road Ecology from his research on wildlife movement across the Trans Canada highway in Banff National Park. Road Watch could also present at this Council meeting. Contact, Melissa (CCS).
- Crowsnest Pass Allied Arts Association may be a good place for drawing contest results to be displayed.