

ATTENTION – WILDLIFE CROSSING

Crowsnest Pass November 16, 2004 - A new project launched in Crowsnest Pass invites citizens to share their knowledge and observations of highway wildlife crossings. Through a user-friendly Web Site, ***Road Watch in the Pass*** aims to collect and compile wildlife sightings from the public. Each year, more than 200 large animals are involved in fatal collisions with vehicles on Highway 3. These collisions create significant issues for both human safety and wildlife health. The information compiled by ***Road Watch in the Pass*** will provide critical information to planners and managers towards minimizing the risk of collision to people and wildlife.

Road Watch in the Pass is an opportunity for all Crowsnest Pass citizens to be involved in gathering information about our wildlife. Local coordinator, Janet Quinn, recognizes the value of involving local citizens in wildlife monitoring: “Many citizens of the Crowsnest Pass have a rich understanding and knowledge of wildlife. This is an excellent opportunity to share this knowledge.” Quinn adds that this is a great family activity and one that can involve the entire community.

The fastest way to become involved is to check out the newly launched ***Road Watch in the Pass*** Web Site at www.rockies.ca/roadwatch. Participants can provide their observations directly through the Web Site or can contact the local coordinator to relay their information. Participants also have an opportunity to win prizes by contributing their wildlife sightings.

Free demonstration workshops are being held on November 22nd from at 2:00-3:00 and from 7:00-8:00 PM at the Blairmore library. Anyone wishing to learn more about the project is encouraged to attend.

The website has been developed by The Miistakis Institute, a non-profit group affiliated with the University of Calgary, supporting pure and applied research. Miistakis will use the information collected through this site to analyze and communicate information highlighting the crossing locations of wildlife along the highway. This information will be made available to citizens and decision makers in the Pass.

To participate or for more information, click on www.rockies.ca/roadwatch or contact local program coordinator, Janet Quinn at 564-4833 or jcquin@telus.net.