



Road Watch in the Pass

Update to Participants Number 10

Monitoring Wildlife Update

There are currently **66** people participating in the Road Watch Project whom have contributed a total of **1567** observations using the mapping tool. Sightings include:

Mule deer	467
Big horn sheep	247
White-tailed deer	292
Deer	290
Elk	119
Moose	53
Other	26
Black Bear	12
Coyote	41
Cougar	8
Grizzly Bear	5
Wolf	3
Mountain Goat	4

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Recent Accomplishments

- Miistakis presented Road Watch in the Pass and preliminary findings to Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation (AIT) and representatives from consulting companies working on the Highway 3 upgrade.
- Kylie, a graduate student from the University of Montana has joined Road Watch. She is developing an independent dataset of wildlife crossing/ adjacent to the highway, collected through a systematic driving survey.
- Remember to enter your wildlife or landscape photograph in the Road Watch contest by September 15 2006.

How important is Road Watch data?

- Extremely... The majority of research on wildlife movement through the Pass focuses on regional carnivore movement through the Rocky Mountains. The data collected through Road Watch provides **new** crossing information at a local scale for ungulate and carnivore species.
- Road Watch data identifies zones along Highway 3 that have a high number of wildlife vehicle collisions, or zones with a high number of successful crossings or zones with a high number of observations adjacent to Highway 3. There are currently no other large datasets available that can provide this diversity of information.
- We have been able to compare Road Watch data to other data sets such as the wildlife traffic mortality data collected by Volker Stevin staff. A review of these two datasets from November 2004 to March 2005 highlights the value of RW data in providing **new** information. For example, Road Watch contributed a extra 64 observations that were not included in the mortality data collected by Volker Stevens. Please continue to make RW a success and enter your observations.



Aerial view from Coleman to Blairmore, Photo taken by Clayton Apps.

Stay Tuned....

- **Sunday, July 9, 2006 at 10:00 am** Road Watch is hosting a community action event. Come and join us in painting the elk wildlife signs currently posted along Highway 3. Meet at the Volker Stevin Yard.
- **Employment Opportunity:** We will be hiring a field technician to help Kylie in mid-August. A job description will be posted on the website soon.