

Road Watch in the Pass seeks community input – January 20 2006.

Road Watch is a community based research project that enables you to enter where you have seen wildlife crossing or adjacent to Highway 3 using an interactive mapping tool on the internet (www.rockies.ca/roadwatch). For those of you not comfortable with computers or who don't have easy access to a computer there is also a user friendly 24 - hour WILDLIFE HOTLINE to record your wildlife observations. Simply dial 564-4833 to enter your wildlife sightings including species, number of animals, location (use distance from local landmarks such as 100 m East of Tent Mountain Road), date, time of day of your wildlife observation, and any other information you can provide.

This information will then be added to the Road Watch data to assist in determining prime wildlife crossing locations along Highway 3, where wildlife are crossing successfully and where wildlife are being hit by highway traffic. Citizens of the Crowsnest Pass have been instrumental in collecting information since November, 2004. Road Watch has over 800 observations to date and we are always keen to have new wildlife observers and participants. We need your help to make this project a success.

In February we plan on forming an advisory committee to assist in the future development of Road Watch. Road Watch is holding its first meeting on **Monday February 13th at 5:00pm at the Blairmore Provincial building**. Road Watch needs community input on:

- how to further promote Road Watch in the Pass,
- types of analysis and presentation of results,
- disseminating the results effectively, and
- developing the interactive mapping tool

Anyone interested is invited to attend this meeting and contribute to the project. Road Watch would not exist without your support and contributions. If you are interested in attending the first committee meeting please contact Janet Quinn at 564-4833 or email at jqquin@telus.net.

Road Watch recently received funding (\$4800) from the Shell Environmental Fund (SEF). Created in 1990, the SEF is a national program intended to make a local difference. A total of \$11, 673, 237.00 has been granted to 3,950 environmental projects across the country. These projects include habitat restoration, beach and road clean-ups, waste reduction and recycling programs, trail building, educational activities, and other innovative projects.

Individuals, schools, community associations, service clubs and environmental groups have used the grants, of up to \$5000 per project, to improve and protect their environment.

The SEF accepts applications for projects that are action-oriented, innovative and community-based. Representatives of three environmental organizations and one shell employee make the funding decisions. For information about the SEF, visit the website at www.shell.ca/sef or call the SEF Administrator at (403) 691-2701.