

HB - 2834 The Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Act

To ensure a long-term and sustainable future for Oregon's wildlife, and to protect public health and safety, the Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Act would direct Oregon Fish and Wildlife in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to develop a Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Action Plan. The Action Plan would identify and/or contain:

- Species of highest concern
- Habitats that risk fragmentation
- Known migration and dispersal corridors
- Anticipated impacts from climate change
- Human-caused barriers to connectivity
- A map of existing and potential wildlife corridors and core habitat areas
- A list of priority areas for designating wildlife corridors

The Department of Transportation would also create a program to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, which will include:

- Plans to modify or create infrastructure that will allow passage of wildlife
- Design options for road projects that threaten wildlife connectivity, including identifying wildlife corridors that may be threatened and a mitigation plan in the EIS for the road project

The Action Plan would be developed with the assistance and advice of all state agencies.

Facts about Wildlife Vehicle Collisions:

- A 2008 Report to the U.S. Congress found that wildlife-vehicle collisions have increased by 50%, from roughly 200,000 to 300,000 (Huijser et al. 2008).
 - Reported collisions between motorists and wildlife cause more than 200 human fatalities and over 26,000 injuries each year, at an annual cost to Americans of more than \$8 billion
 - In addition to the human toll, an estimated 1-2 million large animals are killed by motorists every year, or roughly one animal every 26 seconds
 - Road mortality is documented as one of the major threats to 21 federally listed threatened or endangered species in North America



- Researchers estimate that the average cost of a deer-vehicle collision is \$8,190, an elk-vehicle collision is \$25,319 and a moose-vehicle collision is \$44,546 (2018).

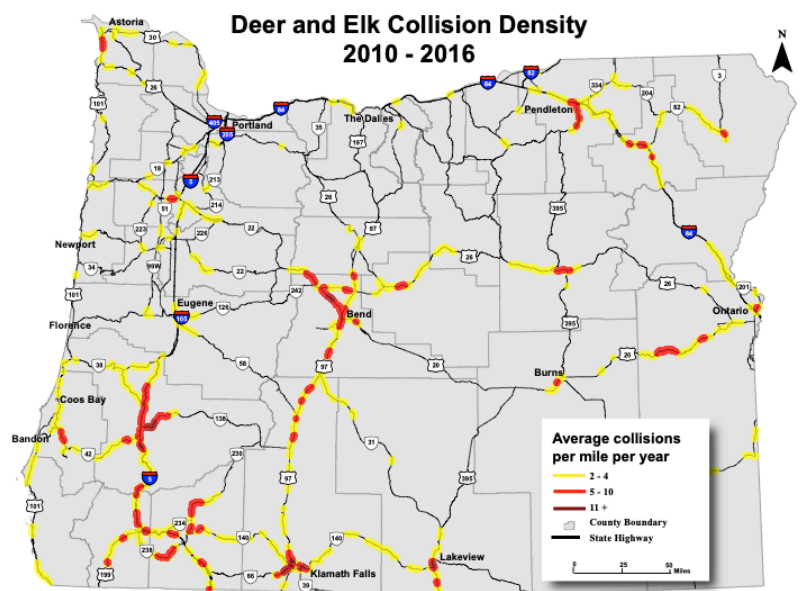
Impacts of Wildlife Crossings:

- Studies show that wildlife crossings reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by up to 97% when placed in areas of known wildlife movement and combined with fencing and jump-out structures that allow wildlife caught on the highway to exit
- In Northern Arizona wildlife underpasses have reduced elk collisions by 90%



In Oregon:

- The Oregon DOT reported that a wildlife underpass near Bend on US 97 has reduced WVCs by 90%, a “resounding success”
- “Every dollar spent on [wildlife crossing] construction can return nearly twice as much benefit to taxpayers.”
–ODOT poster
- ODOT statistics for 2018: 1,160 deer or elk collisions in Oregon in November, 1,052 in October
- ODOT maintains a Wildlife Collision Location database to help determine where wildlife passages should be located



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