

Brief minutes of the meeting for March 4, 2013
Wildlife Crossing Subcommittee Meeting

I. Introductions

This will be a subcommittee of the Blaine County Transportation Committee.

28 people attended representing several organizations and individuals, including Blaine County Sheriff, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Blaine County Land Water and Wildlife Program, US Forest Service, BLM Shoshone Field office , Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Idaho Transportation Department, the principle of Hailey Elementary with three representatives from the third grade class, and others including Blaine County(Commissioner McCleary).

Everyone stated their concerns and interest in this subject.

The third graders gave a brief report on their goals to get the public to take wildlife into account while driving. They said that the Physics class from the high school came up with a speed of 40 mph that would allow drivers to stop when an animal is seen on the road. They also distributed the bumper stickers that they are using to remind the public to slow down for wildlife.

II. Purpose and Goals of Committee

The committee will be responsible for coming up with short term, midterm and long range goals that will help prevent wildlife from being killed on SH-75 in the Wood River Valley. Will need to narrow down the objectives to be able to accomplish the goals. Need to target the goals to be accomplished within each term.

The committee will review and identify a scope of objectives to be reviewed and considered from the wide range of possibilities. Will need to identify gaps in knowledge and (needed) research for the area. The variety of potential solutions mentioned included short, medium and long term strategies covering land uses, law changes, animal behavior changes, etc. A wide range of possible solutions were mentioned.

The information will also have to be taken out to the public at some point so that they know what is being tried and why.

III. Rules and Responsibilities

ITD, Connie Jones and Blaine County Commissioner Angenie McCleary will act as facilitators for the subcommittee. There will be monthly meetings at 1:00 pm on the second Monday at the Courthouse to get this started. Will have to keep in mind the costs of solutions and the funds available when deciding on short term, midterm and long range goals. Need to have a one year commitment from participants to be able to make this work. We will endeavor to keep notes and send out meeting minutes.

IV. Next Steps

Besides discussing speed limits and lighting, there are many other possibilities that can be found even on the internet.

Need to quantify how important the wildlife is to the Valley in contrast to competing interests.

Need to identify issues in the context of the larger landscape of the Valley, current assessment of migration habits, status of each species, needs that are driving the behaviors such as food, water, security and cover.

Currently ITD is looking to identify funding possibilities in their system.

Would like to work towards identifying a system to try at a specific location and document results.

V. Adjourn

Meet next on April 8th, 2013 at 1 pm