

ANNUAL REPORT

2007/2008



Wildlife Collision Prevention Program

www.wildlifecollisions.ca

Administered by the British Columbia Conservation Foundation



Wildlife Collision Prevention Program

The Wildlife Collision Prevention Program was formed in 2001 as a partnership between the British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF) and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, in response to the growing number and severity of wildlife vehicle collisions in British Columbia. BCCF is a registered not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of BC's ecosystems and species.

Collisions between vehicles and wildlife are a serious problem for species conservation and management, public safety, animal welfare and the economy. Past wildlife vehicle collision records demonstrate that in a typical year in BC it is estimated that:

- 4 people are killed, and 380 people are injured.
- 4,900 animals are recorded as killed, and a further 14,900 wildlife deaths go unrecorded if the animal leaves the roadside area to die.
- \$600,000 is spent by BC Ministry of Transportation for highway cleanup.
- \$36 million is no longer available to provincial revenue due to lost hunting license revenue, lost value of wildlife to hunters and non-hunters, and lost opportunities for wildlife viewing.
- Substantial costs are incurred for policing, medical aid, WCB, EI, and lost staff productivity.

In order to reduce the number of wildlife vehicle collisions in British Columbia, WCPP implements programs enabling motorists to anticipate situations where wildlife might be present on the road, and educating them about ways to avoid colliding with wildlife hazards.

Mission Statement

The Wildlife Collision Prevention Program seeks to save human lives and prevent injuries, protect wildlife from unnecessary death and injury, and reduce the economic losses to society caused by wildlife vehicle collisions.



PROJECT SUMMARIES

Brochures

New Partnerships

MSI Explosives, Peace River Coal, EnCana Corp., and Wallace Driving School are companies whose businesses are affected by wildlife collisions. They requested brochures to distribute to their staff or clients. ICBC provided an inkind donation of \$2480.00 enabling additional brochures to be purchased.

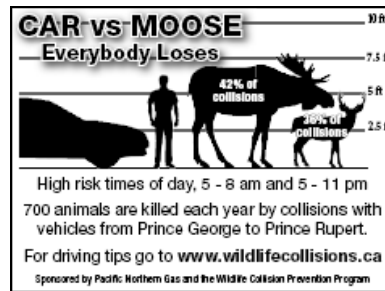
Achievements

Approximately 20,000 brochures were distributed through Visitor Information Centres, on BC Ferries, at Parks Canada Tourist Centres, at the BC Wildlife Park, through the BC Wildlife Federation clubs, at BCAA sales centres and by our corporate sponsors.

Print Notices

Continuing Projects

WCPP continues to advertise in 10 community newspapers along Highway 16 from Vanderhoof to Prince Rupert during high risk times of year. These ads emphasize the danger of moose collisions to the motorist, comparing moose size to vehicle size.



Achievements

WCPP places notices in travel, tourist and outdoor/nature publications.

Magazine	Circulation	Magazine	Circulation
Sno Riders	40,000	BC Outdoor Hunting	25,000
Westworld	502,000	BC Parks Provincial	100,000
Rocky Mountain Visitors	35,000	RV Times	55,000
BC Parks Thompson	10,000	BC Parks Kootenay	30,000
Outdoor Edge	50,000	Northword Magazine	40,000
RV West	30,000	Northern Explorer	45,000
BC Outdoors Fishing	25,000	Regional newspapers	10 communities



Rest Stop Signs

New Projects

In order to reach motorists, WCPP locates informational signs at suitable rest stop area throughout BC. New rest stop signs are in the planning stages for Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park and Mt. Robson Provincial Park, as well as selected rest stops along the BC portion of the Alaska Highway.

Existing partnerships

Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Vanderhoof) Ltd.
 BC Ministry of Environment, BC Parks, Peace Region
 City of Fort St John
 BC Ministry of Transportation - Courtenay Area Office, Northern Regional Office, Fort George District Office
 Clinton & District Outdoor Sportsmen Association
 Village of Clinton
 Initiatives Prince George
 BC Ministry of Environment, BC Parks, Omineca Region
 RoadHealth Regional Task Force, Prince George
 HMC Services Inc., Quesnel

Achievements

13 rest stops are located throughout BC.

Junction of Highways 16 and 97 – Visitor Information Centre
 Highway 97 south – Australian rest area
 Highway 97 south – Woodpecker rest area
 Highway 16 west - Cluculz Creek rest area
 Highway 16 east - Slim Creek and Terry Fox rest areas
 Highway 97 north - Pine Le Moray viewpoint
 Highway 97 south - near Clinton, 6 Mile Lake pullout
 Village of Clinton rest area
 Highway 5 - Wire Cache rest area
 Highway 19 - Vancouver Island, Buckley Bay & Hoomak Lake rest areas
 City of Fort St. John rest area



Slim Creek



Highway 16/97 Junction



6 Mile Lake



Billboards

New Partnerships

Using the WCPP billboard design, Public Works and Government Services Canada has placed two Moose style billboards and two Bison style billboards along the BC portion of the Alaska Highway in high risk collision areas.



Near Iron Creek, Alaska Hwy



Km 135 Alaska Hwy

Continuing Projects

WCPP continues to maintain 3 billboards located near high risk wildlife vehicle collision locations in BC.

Northeast BC – Moose Style. During 07/08, the billboard was located west of Dawson Creek on Highway 97.

West Kootenays – Deer Style. During 07/08, the billboard alternated between 2 locations – Highway 22 south of Castlegar and Highway 3B east of Grand Forks.

East Kootenays – Deer Style. During 07/08, the billboard alternated between 2 locations – Highway 3 east of Fernie and Highway 93/95 south of Fairmont Hot Springs.



Highway 97 north



Highway 93/95



Highway 3



Radio Ads

Continuing Projects

A series of radio advertisements were developed to provide wildlife collision prevention information directly to motorists. The ads provide species specific behavioural information in high crash areas, and there are different versions of the ads for deer and moose hot spot areas and also for fall and winter conditions. These 30 second ads incorporated the community and regionally specific data obtained from the University of Northern BC research on wildlife collisions.

The take home message is "Slow down and give wildlife and yourself a brake!"

New Partnerships

Mike Gouchie, a country music recording artist, was seriously injured in a moose vehicle collision in July 2007, south of Prince George, BC. He had previously been involved in a moose collision several years ago in which his best friend was killed. After Mike's recovery, he generously donated his time and talent to record three moose collision radio advertisements for the series.

Existing Partnerships

Our existing partnerships with the RoadHealth Regional Task Force and the Forestry TruckSafe "Sharing the Road" ad campaign assisted with funding for the radio ads and provided coverage throughout northern British Columbia.

Achievements

From November 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008, radio advertisements were aired twice weekly on 15 radio stations across northern BC. The towns and surrounding areas included 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Terrace, Hazelton, Houston, Burns Lake, Smithers, Vanderhoof, Dawson Creek, Fort St John and Fort Nelson. Where possible, radio playing time corresponded to the highest risk time of day for wildlife collisions.



Right of Way Signage

Continuing Projects

WCPP continues to maintain two right of way signs located on Highway 97 north, on the north and south approaches to the Taylor Hill, south of Fort St. John, BC. Through partnerships with the Ministry of Transportation, Yellowhead Road & Bridge (North Peace) Ltd., and Caribou Road Services (South) Ltd., the signs were put into place in March 2006.



Website

Achievements

Visits to the WCPP website www.wildlifecollisions.ca continue to increase.

6 Month Timeframe	Mean hits per month	Mean hits per day	% increase previous 6 month period
Oct 04 to Mar 05	174	6	104%
Apr 05 to Sept 05	396	13	127%
Oct 05 to Mar 06	459	15	16%
Apr 06 to Sept 06	460	15	0.2%
Oct 06 to Mar 07	541	18	18%
Apr 07 to Sept 07	580	19	7.1%
Oct 07 to Mar 08	660	22	13.8%

Website Inquiries

Continuing Extension

Numerous inquiries and contacts are made with WCPP through the website feedback button. They represent inquiries from: universities and academics; transportation and environmental consultants; driving schools; trucking companies; general inquiries; occupational health and safety committees; non-profit organizations working in related fields of study; the media; governments in other jurisdictions; and organizations in related fields of business.

Email inquiries range from comments on the need for eye-catching wildlife warning signage, to media outlets requesting information and / or fact verification for wildlife vehicle collision stories; to driving instructors wanting information to supplement their curricula; to transportation managers requesting information; to community members wanting to initiate projects in their local areas.



Media Exposure

Achievements

Media releases

Media releases in 2007/08 concentrated on utilizing the locally specific information provided through the research at the University of Northern BC to advise communities 1) when they were entering the highest risk months of the year for wildlife collisions 2) which wildlife species drivers were most likely to encounter and 3) when the highest risk time of day would be. The following references to WCPP were noted in the media.

Achievements

Print media

Newspapers

Prince George Citizen Letters
 Omineca Express (Vanderhoof)
 Kamloops Daily News
 Kamloops Daily News
 Vancouver Province
 Cranbrook Daily News
 PG Free Press
 Alaska Highway News
 Mackenzie Times
 Penticton Daily News

Story Focus

Stopping at wildlife collisions
 Wildlife Reflectors
 Bighorn Sheep Collisions
 Moose Train Collisions
 Bears on Sea to Sky Hwy
 Deer Collision Stats
 Moose Collision Avoidance
 Fall Wildlife Collisions
 Fall Wildlife Collisions
 Wildlife Collision Awareness

Magazines

Esquire June 2007
 RV West Nov/Dec 2007
 RV Snowbirds Spring 2008

Safe driving tips
 Safe Driving Tips
 Avoid Deer in the Headlights

Journals

RCMP Gazette Vol. 69 No 3, 2007 Wildlife Collision Awareness

Website Links

RV West.com Avoid Deer in the Headlights
 Behind the Wheel Website Wildlife Collision Avoidance

Achievements

Radio interviews

CBC Radio 1	Wildlife Collision Prevention
CBC Radio 1	Moose Train Collisions
Star FM Abbotsford	Wildlife Collision Awareness
CIRX Prince George	Spring Deer Collisions
CIRX Prince George	Hot Spots near Prince George
Mountain FM Whistler	Bears on the Sea to Sky Hwy
CIRX Vanderhoof	General Wildlife Collision Prevention



Conferences

Achievements

WCPP participated in four conferences/workshops during 2007/08.

43rd Annual North American Moose Conference - Prince George, BC: June 2-7, 2007

This theme of this annual conference was “Moose in a Changing Landscape.” WCPP presented a poster entitled *Projects, Successes and Challenges of a Wildlife Collision Prevention Program*. Several other participants covered issues relating to wildlife collision prevention including 1) moose activity at night 2) moose train collisions and 3) moose vehicle collision analysis in Mt. Revelstoke National Park. This was an excellent opportunity to learn about moose behaviour from the experts.

CrossRoads “Sharing the Road” Conference - Prince George, BC: Oct. 16-17, 2007

The focus of this conference was “Vehicular Impact Disease” and how its effects can be reduced. WCPP was asked to present a summary of the wildlife collision prevention education work that is carried out in Northern BC, and to give an overview of the progress of the Wildlife Collision Working Group projects. WCPP also maintained a display booth at the conference.

Considerable progress was made in raising the issue of wildlife vehicle collisions with participants. At the 2005 regional CrossRoads conference, wildlife collision prevention was not an official topic. This year, the key note speaker was Mike Gouchie, a moose collision survivor, and there was a break out group focussed on wildlife and road interactions.

Impacts of Linear Corridors Conference – Revelstoke, BC: Nov. 7-8, 2007

This workshop examined problems and solutions related to environmental management of linear corridors and related infrastructure. The focus was the identification and management of the ecological impacts of railways, highways, pipelines, transmission lines, and seismic lines. WCPP presented a poster entitled *Projects, Successes and Challenges of a Wildlife Collision Prevention Program*.

South Thompson Bighorn Sheep Management Committee Meeting – Kamloops, BC: Dec. 7, 2007

Bighorn sheep pose a high collision hazard on Highway 5 near the Sun Rivers development east of Kamloops. There is public concern for both sheep and human safety. WCPP was invited to attend the multi-agency Management Committee meeting and participate in planning discussions to arrive at appropriate mitigation projects. Fencing portions of Highway 5 will be implemented by MoT and paid for by MoT and ICBC.



Northern BC Wildlife Collision Working Group

Continuing Projects

The Wildlife Collision Working Group has a five point plan to address wildlife collisions in northern BC:

- 1) identify high risk times of day, months of the year, and hotspot locations in northern BC - *completed*
- 2) prioritize these hotspots for site visits - *completed*
- 3) conduct field inspections of collision hot spot areas - *ongoing*
- 4) recommend, implement and assess mitigation methods – *ongoing*
- 5) carry out public awareness projects - *ongoing*

Achievements

The University of Northern BC wildlife collision research team completed the final report on the use of the Otto Driving Companion to provide spatially accurate and timely locations of live and dead moose and deer sightings. The results are presented in the report *Testing the practicality of a GPS-based device (the Otto-Driving Companion) to record roadside moose and deer locations for use in road safety planning*. The results indicated that 1) the Otto Wildlife device is a reliable, rapid and effective way to collect data on animal sightings 2) structural modifications would enable the device to record multiple species 3) data sampling protocols for live animal sightings must be carefully developed to reduce bias 4) carcass and live animal sighting data confirmed species percentages and high risk months observed in other studies and 5) the Otto Wildlife device can be used to collect carcass sightings without further testing.

A next step for this multi-agency group is a decision regarding potential deactivation of roadside muck licks (wet areas adjacent to roads) by draining and covering with large rocks. Several hot spot areas require further site visits to determine additional contributing factors to wildlife collisions. An analysis of the location of MoT wildlife warning signs in relation to UNBC identified wildlife collision hot spots is ongoing. Mitigation recommendations for the remainder of the hot spots should be completed by fall 2008, with implementation of mitigation methods scheduled for field season 2009.

In January 2008, a moose collision warning sign, with blinking, solar powered lights, was installed on a trial basis at a high profile moose collision hot spot east of Prince George. The sign can be programmed to blink during the highest risk months, thus providing enhanced warnings during those times. Some software and battery challenges have been encountered so far. Monitoring of moose collisions in this area will continue.



Fee for Service Projects

WCPP completed four Fee for Service projects during 2007/08.

Otto Wildlife device

Working with UNBC researchers, WCPP Coordinator Gayle Hesse authored the final report on the testing of the Otto Wildlife device. The report is entitled *Testing the practicality of a GPS-based device (the Otto-Driving Companion) to record roadside moose and deer locations for use in road safety planning*. This report is available on < www.wildifecollisions.ca >.

Wildlife Control at the Prince George Regional Airport

Working with UNBC researchers, WCPP developed and conducted a survey of airports in western Canada to identify factors contributing to bird and animal strikes involving aircraft. Data analyses of the survey results are ongoing.

Mission Possible @ Work Curriculum Development

WCPP provided technical advice on the curriculum development of two training modules on wildlife hazard education and awareness for ICBC's training program Mission Possible @ Work. Draft presentations and accompanying background fact sheets were prepared. Audiovisual resources such as video footage, radio advertisements, and images were sourced, reviewed, and prioritized.

Images for Mission Possible @ Work

WCPP provided images of wildlife, wildlife on the road, wildlife warning signs, and vehicles involved in wildlife collisions, to accompany and illustrate ICBC's training program Mission Possible @ Work.

Additional Projects

Continuing Projects

Radium Bighorn Sheep

WCPP continues to advocate for mitigation projects to counter mortality incurred by collisions with vehicles in the Radium-Stoddart Bighorn Sheep herd, located south of Radium Hot Springs. In our facilitator role, pertinent scientific studies have been summarized and passed on to ICBC, along with stakeholder contact information. ICBC and the Village of Radium Hot Springs have had preliminary meetings to discuss available options.

Moose/Train Collisions in Central BC

WCPP continues to monitor this issue and once formal committees are in place in Prince George and the Lakes District areas, we hope to be active participants in working towards solutions.



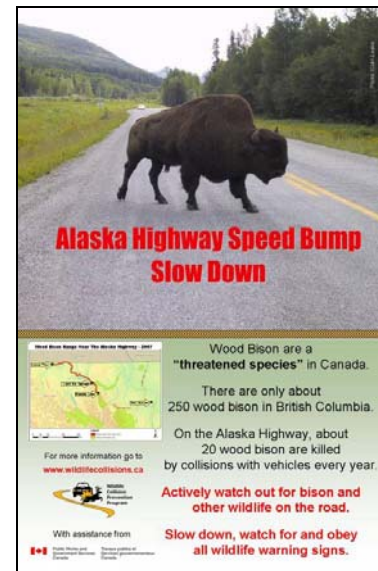
New Initiatives

Wildlife Act review

WCPP responded to a review and comment request from the BC Ministry of Environment on proposed changes to BC's *Wildlife Act*. The response covered 1) reporting requirements for wildlife killed by vehicle collisions 2) ownership and possession of wildlife killed by vehicles and 3) possible compensation to the Crown for wildlife killed by collisions with trains.

Posters on the Alaska Highway

WCPP partnered with Public Works and Government Services Canada staff to develop 11 x 17 inch informational posters. These were widely distributed along the BC portion of the Alaska Highway in lodges, restaurants, rest stops, and gas stations. The posters provide wildlife collision prevention tips and information about the endangered Wood Bison herd that frequently grazes along the Alaska Highway.



Sea to Sky Highway

WCPP was approached by a member of the public who travels the Sea to Sky Highway regularly, and who was concerned by wildlife vehicle collisions and subsequent wildlife mortality on Highway 99. An action plan was developed, involving increased public awareness along the Highway 99 corridor, and consultation with the Ministry of Transportation regarding the inclusion of mitigative methods in the construction of the Sea to Sky highway. WCPP has provided the resources, and the citizen distributed the material.



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES 2007 - 2008

Revenues

Gaming	\$50,978.58
BC Ministry of Environment	\$10,000.00
BCCF	\$584.13
Donations	\$544.40
Fundraising (BC Hydro, RoadHealth, FortisBC)	\$15,545.31
Fee for Service	<u>6,888.48</u>

Total Revenues	\$84,340.90
Carry over to 08/09	<u>\$31,324.35</u>
	\$53,016.55

Inkind Cash Contributions (direct to suppliers)

ICBC (for brochures & posters)	\$2,480.00
BC Ministry of Environment, Peace Region (for website)	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
	\$3,680.00

Expenses

Contract Wages	\$20,809.95
Radio Notices	\$2,000.00
Print Notices	\$7,926.91
Rest Stop Signs	\$0.00
Billboards	\$7,905.95
Communications	\$90.91
Computer Costs	\$480.00
Materials/Supplies	\$806.41
Brochures	\$6,208.36
Website Maintenance	\$254.08
Image Purchase	\$51.25
Travel	\$26.42
Accommodations/Food	162.00
Per Diems	113.50
Training/Safety	250.00
GST	\$728.26
Fees	<u>\$5,079.12</u>

Total Expenses	\$53,016.55
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PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

WCPP partners and contributors are essential to achieving its goals. Partnerships of all kinds continue to be pursued with public and private agencies as well as government and not-for-profit organizations. Collectively, WCPP, its partners and advisors are working successfully together to achieve our goals. The Wildlife Collision Prevention Program wishes to extend warm thanks to all its partners.

Elite Sponsors

BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Platinum Sponsors

BC Ministry of Environment

Bronze Sponsors

BC Hydro and Power Authority
RoadHealth Regional Task Force

InKind Contributors: Cash

ICBC
BC Ministry of Environment

InKind Contributors: Technical Advice and Support

ICBC
Parks Canada
BCAA
BC Ministry of Transportation
BC Forest Safety Council, Forestry TruckSafe Program

Partners in Community Projects

Public Works and Government Services Canada
Sonya McCarthy
Mountain Caribou Project
Bighorn In Our Backyard
Yellowhead Road & Bridge (Vanderhoof) Ltd.
Yellowhead Road & Bridge (North Peace) Ltd.
Caribou Road Services (South) Ltd.
HMC Services Ltd.

Many private individuals concerned for both wildlife and human safety
have donated generously to the program.

Header Photo Credits: Gayle Hesse (dead deer), Jim Hesse (deer with vehicle) Ernie Kroeger (dead bear). Dead moose in blue vehicle images from the internet, no photographer noted. Terry Mannella, (close-up, dead moose in vehicle).



Photo: Bill Swan, Osprey Communications



Photo: Jim Hesse



Photo: Internet

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Photo: Jim Robertson
www.animalsinthewild.org



Photo: Roy V. Rea



Photo: Internet