



## Wildlife Crossings Toolkit Launched

Many highways on or near National Forest System lands wind their way through excellent wildlife habitat. Florida's highways slice through rare black bear habitat. Alaska struggles with moose-vehicle collisions. Grizzly bears in the northern Rockies are killed on highways or avoid crossing them to reach other parts of their recovery zones. U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service wildlife biologists and transportation planners wrestle with how to plan wildlife-friendly highways or reduce impacts from those already on the landscape.

San Dimas Technology and Development Center has partnered with Utah State University, the Western Transportation Institute, and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration to create a toolkit that provides assistance. The Wildlife Crossings Toolkit is an online source of excellent information on wildlife/highway interactions. The toolkit contains two major sections.

The first is a fully searchable database of case histories from around the world of projects that have considered wildlife in the planning or retrofitting of solutions to highway-caused impacts to wildlife. Most of the case histories show how engineers and biologists have worked together across disciplines to solve some almost intractable problems. Other histories show how projects could have worked better: each account has a section on how the planners would have proceeded differently. Most case histories contain plans, drawings, and images from the projects for engineers to use as a starting point for their own work.

The second major part of the toolkit is comprised of articles and links to resources that will help engineers and biologists quickly find information on highway

impacts to wildlife and successful solutions to reduce those impacts. Relevant articles by the world's experts explain concepts in clear, concise terms understandable to both disciplines.

The toolkit is designed to encourage engineers and biologists to work together for innovative solutions. An extensive illustrated glossary and standardized terminology help foster this effort.

The Wildlife Crossings Toolkit is the major source material for a new FY03 training session Innovative Solutions to Wildlife/Highway Interactions for biologists and engineers.

The Web site may be accessed at  
<http://www.wildlifecrossings.info>



[wildlifecrossings.info](http://www.wildlifecrossings.info)





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