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**Subject:** Wildlife Crossing Research - Animal Services Advisory Committee

Good Afternoon,

Thank you to the ASAC for your consideration and care. Below is a selection of articles from the plethora of information in support & study of wildlife crossings. Please share with the members for review.

Can you please send the specific research questions?

Best,

Lynne Williams

#### **Wildlife crossings potentially save millions in Washington state**

<https://news.wsu.edu/press-release/2022/08/30/wildlife-crossings-potentially-save-millions-annually-in-washington-state/>

““Wildlife crossing structures not only benefit the ecosystem but may also improve road safety,” said Wisnu Sugiarto, a WSU economics doctoral student and author of the study published in the [Transportation Research Record](#).

Wildlife crossings are designed to help animals move in search of food and to escape predators and wildfires, but this is the first known study to look at the reduction in wildlife-vehicle collisions in Washington state. Sugiarto noted that similar evidence has been found by studies in North Carolina, Utah and Wyoming. There soon may be many more structures across the country since \$350 million was allotted in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law in 2021.”

#### **Wildlife Crossings Save Lives and Money**

<https://www.treehugger.com/wildlife-crossings-save-lives-money-6543104>

“Meanwhile, people continue to rely on highways for commerce and travel, and animals continue to have mobility needs for food, mating, and migration,” Sugiarto says. “Thus, identification of an effective mitigation strategy for reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions is essential for transportation safety.”

The findings are also timely. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed in 2021 includes \$350 million over five years for the construction of wildlife crossings.”

“However, it turns out that there are multiple strategies to mitigate issues related to wildlife-vehicle collisions and we can do something about them.”

### **Safe Passage’s Wildlife Crossing Efforts**

<https://smokiessafepassage.org/the-issue/wildlife-crossings/>.

Signs, interactive signs, culverts, overpasses are some example types.

Research - <https://smokiessafei40.wpengine.com/the-issue/research/>

**“Variety is Important-** It is important to locate wildlife crossings where animals wish to cross the road, not just where it may be easy or convenient from a construction perspective. Scientists and researchers help road planners know where animals try to cross by studying wildlife mortality, collision data, migration routes, and the geographical terrain of the area.

One type of crossing does not necessarily meet every animal’s needs and, ideally, a combination of various crossing types should be provided, spaced out in such a way that animals do not need to travel great distances to find a crossing.”

### **Wildlife Crossings Success Stories**

<https://arc-solutions.org/article/wildlife-crossing-success-stories/>

“Every 26 seconds – or less – a driver hits an animal, making highways one of the greatest barriers to wildlife movement in the United States. In addition to killing 1-2 million large animals every year, these collisions cause 200 human fatalities and over 26,000 injuries, at a cost to Americans of more than \$8 billion annually. Road mortality is also a serious threat to 21 endangered and threatened species. The good news is there are proven solutions to this problem: Placed in areas of known wildlife movement, wildlife crossing structures with associated elements such as fencing, have been shown to reduce motorist collisions involving wildlife by up to 97%.”

Wildlife Crossing Success Stories in Western States

<https://arc-solutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ARC-Solutions-Success-Stories-online.pdf>

## **How Texas Wildlife Crossings are Saving Time & Money**

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/travel/texas-wildlife-crossings-saving-lives-and-money/>

## **Reconnecting Nature: How Wildlife Corridors Can Help Save U.S. Species**

As biodiversity continues its decline, a new report highlights key projects that are working to reconnect nature through “wildlife corridors.” The report from Environment Virginia Research & Policy Center offers examples of how human-made barriers can be modified to allow animals to safely traverse through natural corridors between habitats.

<https://environmentamerica.org/virginia/resources/reconnecting-nature-how-wildlife-corridors-can-help-save-u-s-species/>

Reconnecting Nature Study - [https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/VA-Reconnecting-Nature-scrn\\_0.pdf](https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/VA-Reconnecting-Nature-scrn_0.pdf)

## **North Carolina Specific**

Conservation Projects Gain Support, Place Priority on Wildlife Crossings

[https://www.biltmorebeacon.com/news/conservation-projects-gain-support-place-priority-on-wildlife-crossings/article\\_eab65da0-2a3e-11ec-a38e-efa7424657d5.html](https://www.biltmorebeacon.com/news/conservation-projects-gain-support-place-priority-on-wildlife-crossings/article_eab65da0-2a3e-11ec-a38e-efa7424657d5.html)