



WILDLIFE CROSSING AHEAD

Seven Points to Watch For



OT
Oregon
Department
of Transportation



Protect Animal Migration (PAM), FAQs and Facts

FAQ

Who we are and what we do

We are a citizen's advocacy group in Deschutes County doing community outreach and education on the need to provide connectivity between habitats for mule deer and other wildlife through construction of wildlife crossings.

We provide information to the community on the increasing number of wildlife/vehicle collisions, risks to motorists, and impacts on mule deer, other wildlife and eco systems. This information includes the effects of fragmented habitat and other factors reducing the chances of wildlife surviving here.

We work with and through institutions that provide daily programs on wildlife and habitat. We also work in partnership with other conservation groups who advocate for wildlife. But our focus remains on wildlife crossings, their need for public safety and ecological sustainability through the reduction of growing numbers of animal/vehicle collisions.

We believe that an informed community will make choices to keep wildlife alive in central Oregon in support of the work of public agencies, local government and the work of individual citizens on projects in their neighborhoods.

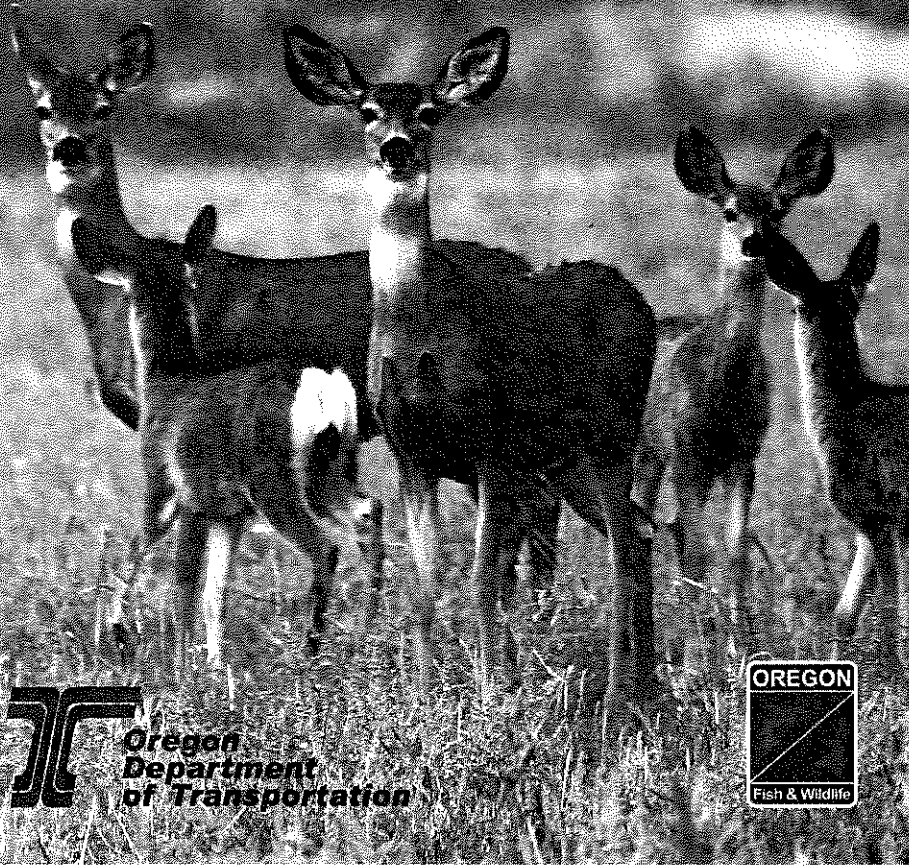
Fact

Highway 97 is vital to the movement of mule deer between summer and winter ranges. Currently, over 22,000 vehicles per day drive over Lava Butte through a large hot spot area for deer, elk and some other species. At 28,000 vehicles per



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When driving in wildlife areas, you should:

- 1 Watch for the rest of the gang.** Deer are pack animals, and rarely travel alone. If a deer crosses in front of you, chances are there are more nearby. Slow down and keep an eye out for more deer darting across the road.
- 2 Slow down and stay alert.** Timing is everything. Deer are most active at dusk and dawn: periods when your vision is most compromised. To add to their terrible timing, deer are on the move during mating season (between October and January) when you're more likely to travel after the sun sets. Be watchful for deer, especially after dark.
- 3 Wear your seat belt.** It may not prevent a collision, but if the inevitable happens a seat belt can reduce injuries. This is especially true if you lose control and collide with something bigger, and more stationary than a deer.
- 4 Take a moment to reflect.** First, look for the road signs. The yellow diamonds with the deer on it are placed in high-traffic areas for deer. You may also spot a deer because their eyes will brightly reflect a car's headlights, making them easier to spot.
- 5 Stay the course.** If you see a deer, brake firmly and calmly, and stay in your lane. Swerving could make you lose control of your vehicle and turn a bad situation much worse. Not to mention, deer are unpredictable, and you could swerve directly into their changed path.
- 6 Honk!** Some experts recommend that one long blast of the horn will scare deer out of the road. Do not rely on hood whistles or other devices designed to scare off deer—studies have shown them to be largely ineffective at minimizing accidents.
- 7 Contact the authorities.** You may be legally required to report a collision with significant vehicle damage.



day, Highway 97 will soon be a barrier for wildlife. In July, 2016, traffic volume increased to 24,000 vehicles per day. The tipping point is near.

There are over 1000 collisions a year (counted from service requests for carcass retrieval by state, county and city agencies) in the hot spots in Deschutes County on state, county and City of Bend highways and roads. This does not include non-reported collisions nor incidences when mortally wounded animals leave the roads to die out of sight.

Each collision costs the public over \$6500 per collision or \$6,500,000 per year. This does not include the costs associated with human injuries or fatalities. It is a conservative figure. Others states have higher estimates. Nationally, the estimate is over \$4 billion a year.

FAQ

What are your priorities?

Our priorities for 2017 involve continuing to build a diverse, large coalition focused on education on the need for wildlife crossings. Following the successful example of Washington State, we are circulating a petition to have wildlife connectivity and ecology be a priority in all transportation construction projects, beginning in the hot spot areas on Highway 97 and associated feeder highways and roads in Deschutes County.

We will continue to research and summarize updated information to the public and to county and city agencies who make decisions that affect habitat fragmentation and connectivity. Often these decisions are made without benefit of updated data on wildlife habitat fragmentation.

We are developing an educational program for youth and their families on wildlife crossings and their connection to wildlife ecology. This will be in the form of a curriculum kit that is available to teachers. Supporting events like field trips and interpretive talks to parents will also be part of this project. The High Desert Museum will conduct this program.

Visit our website at www.protectanimalmigration.org for more information and to sign up for our newsletter.

You can also email us at protectanimalmigration@gmail.com.

Keep the wild alive
Support wildlife crossings

It's the right thing to do

