HIGHWAYS & WILDLIFE

1. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?



All wildlife need to be able to move freely throughout their habitat to access water, food, and mates.



When highways are built through habitat, wildlife must find ways to cross.



Sometimes vehicles collide with crossing wildlife. These collisions are unsafe and very costly.



When highways are built or widened, this fragments wildlife habitat and increases the risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions.















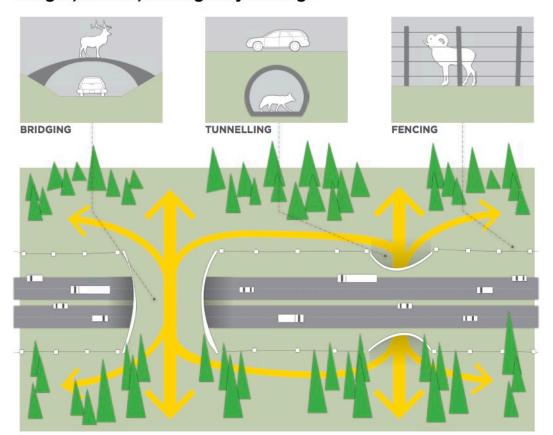






2. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

We can make highways safer for both wildlife and people by separating traffic and wildlife with crossing structures -- including bridges, tunnels, and highway fencing.



3. DO CROSSING STRUCTURES WORK?

Absolutely! Scientists have now collected over 15 years of data on wildlife using highway crossing structures. While some animals take time getting used to these structures, many types of animals -from salamanders to grizzly bears -- now use them regularly.



3 SECONDS

on average between vehicles on the Trans-Canada Highway in



in wildlife-vehicle collisions on highways with crossing structures in Banff National

15 YEARS of research on crossing structures in Banff

National Park

200,000+

using crossing structures in Banff National Park

4. HOW DO WE KNOW THEY WORK?

Scientists have a variety of ways to measure the use of crossing structures by wildlife. These include direct observation, motion-sensing cameras, track observation, and DNA analysis (of fur captured from crossing animals).









5. ARE THEY COST EFFECTIVE?

At sites where highways interrupt regular wildlife movement, the cost of collisions -- including property damage, loss of hunting revenue, and human injury and fatality -- far outweighs the cost of building bridges, tunnels, and fencing. By installing crossing structures, the Trans-Canada Highway near Dead Man's Flats in Alberta has saved over \$85,000 per year!



