Wildlife and Roads in Park City: Proposed Solutions for Wildlife-Vehicle Conflict on SR 224 at McPolin Farm

A Presentation to the Park City Council by Save People Save Wildlife and Dr. Patricia Cramer



October 6, 2022



The Objective of This Presentation

- 1. Introduce Save People Save Wildlife and Dr. Patricia Cramer
- Introduce the SR 224 McPolin Farm Wildlife- Vehicle Challenges and Recommendations in Relation to the Bus Rapid Transit Project for Additional Lanes

3. Gain Park City Council's Support in addressing wildlife connectivity and safety with wildlife underpass

Save People Save Wildlife

Mission Statement

Reduce or eliminate wildlife-vehicle collisions

<u>Savepeoplesavewildlife.org</u>



Accomplishments

45 MPH on SR 224

I-80 Overpass at Parley's Summit in working with UDOT I-80 Wildlife Exclusion Fence, escape ramps, cattle guards Summit County and General Obligation Bond for open space

Working Partners

Local Community
UDOT UDWR Summit County Council
Swaner Preserve / Utah State University
Utah Wildlife Connectivity Group

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Dr. Patricia Cramer

National Leader in Transportation and Wildlife

- UDOT's Trailblazer Award for Excellence in Research
- Three FHWA Environmental Excellence Awards
- Denver Zoo Conservationist of the Year Award
- Utah Wildlife Society Award of Merit
- FHWA 12 DOTs National Manual on Wildlife /Transport
- Worked for 14 state DOT's, FHWA, and Nat'l Academies

































www.wildlifeconnectivity.org

Wildlife Crossing Structures in Utah: Determining the Best Designs

Prepared for Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Submitted by

Report No. UT-17.15

TESTING NEW TECHNOLOGY TO RESTRICT WILDLIFE ACCESS TO HIGHWAYS: PHASE 1

Report No. UT-17.16

US 191 Monticello Wildlife Crossing Structure and Double Cattle Guard Monitoring Project

Final Report

Submitted to Utah Department of Transportation, Region 4

US 189 Wildlife Crossing Structures and Escape Ramps Monitoring

Submitted to Utah Department of Transportation

Patricia Cramer, PhD

Report No. UT-19.19

Report No. UT-19.27

IDENTIFICATION OF WILDLIFE-VEHICLE CONFLICT HOTSPOTS IN UTAH

Prepared For:

Utah Department of Transportation Research & Innovation Division

Final Report December 2019



Wildlife And Roads Challenges in Park City

SR 224 is the Number 5 Hotspot for Wildlife-Vehicle Crashes in Utah based on crashes / mile / year (Cramer et al. 2019)

Kimball Junction to Kearns Blvd, 6 miles, there are 2.97 reported crashes per mile per year, = 17.8 crashes with wildlife in this stretch per year

Utah Top 25 Hotspots for Animal-Vehicle Crashes and Hotspots
Confidence Levels on Highways based on 2008-2017 Data
HIGHWAYS

Top 25 Hot Spots All Animal Crashes on Highways
Hot Spot - 95% Confidence
Hot Spot - 95% Confidence
Hot Spot - 95% Confidence
Utah Roads
Interstate Higways
Us and State Highways
Local Roads
UDOT Regions

UDOT Regions

UDOT REGION 2

UDOT REGION 2

UDOT REGION 2

UDOT REGION 2

UDOT REGION 3

UDOT REGION 3

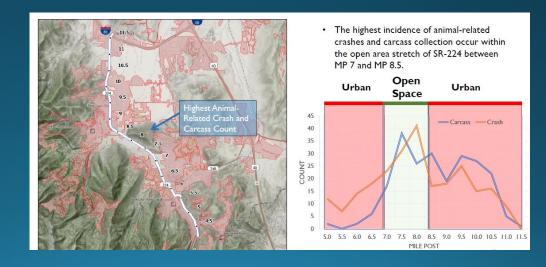
UDOT REGION 3

UDOT REGION 3

SR 224 MP 7-8 (McPolin Farm) has the highest number of crashes with wildlife and collected carcasses on SR 224.

Data from BioWest-UDOT report, below.

Data 2010-2020



Wildlife-Vehicle Crashes at McPolin Farm

From 2010-2020 on SR 224 from MP 7-8 there were 95 Reported Crashes with Wildlife.

Biowest-UDOT report 2022

The cost to society for these crashes ranges from a minimum \$1.1 million to \$3.4 million and more

Using UDOT crash cost values, and 1st assumed all 95 crashes were Property Damage Only, 2nd assumed there were 5 injury crashes and 90 PDO crashes. PDO crash = \$12,300, Injury = \$233,500



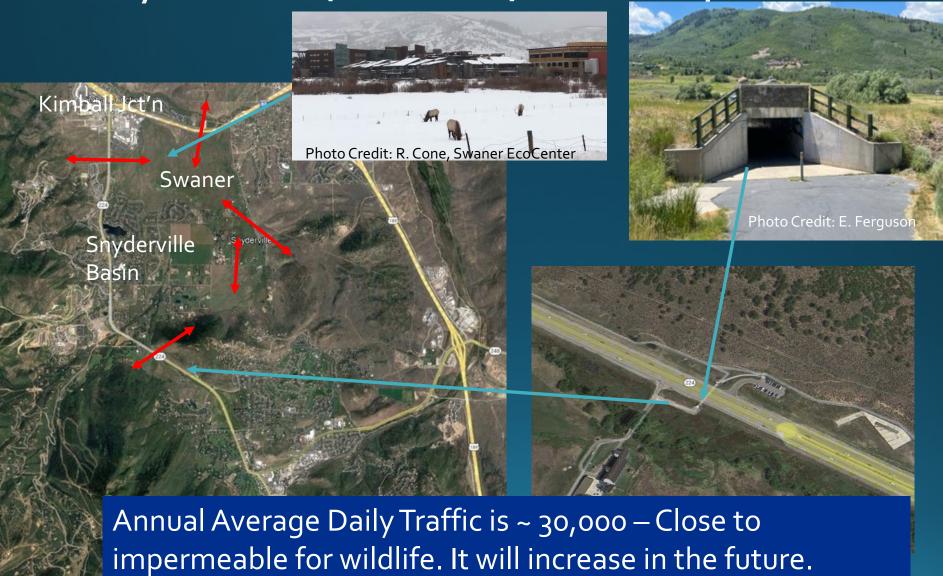








Why SR 224 at MP 7.6 is Important



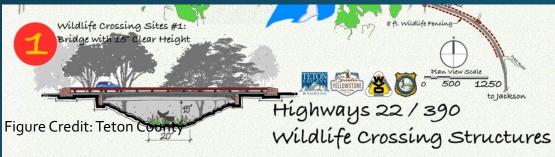
Successful Solutions in Other Places

Wildlife underpass structures with wildlife exclusion fence

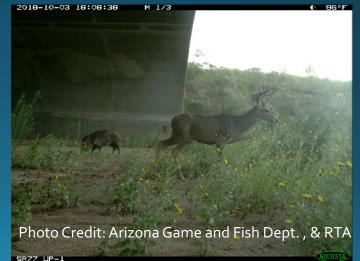


Elk used a SR 9 underpass in Colorado

Jackson, WY & Teton Co. Plans for Underpass WY 22

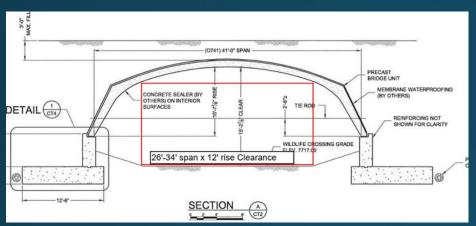


Mule Deer & Javelina use a Tucson & Pima County Wildlife Underpass SR 77



Specific Solution for SR 224

Potential structure: A Pair of Contech's Conspan Arches







Approximately 2 miles of wildlife fence in each direction from MP 7.6 where structure could be placed

Potential Costs of Structure and Other Mitigation

Pair of wildlife crossing structures and 4 miles of fence would cost about \$4 million

\$4 million is ~5% of the total cost of the BRT Project

To secure outside funding:

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- HSIP Safety Funds
- County, Agencies, Partners





Requested Actions from Park City

Save People Save Wildlife requests Park City to collaborate with regional partners on a wildlife crossing structure on SR 224 at McPolin Farm

Commit to ensure inclusion of wildlife mitigation measures as part of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project to increase motorist safety by reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions and promote wildlife connectivity



Silhouettes placed in Jackson, WY



Donor Funded Silhouettes

Requested Action from Park City

Permission to place 2 elk reflective silhouettes on Park City land to raise driver awareness, and help reduce WVC

Work with Staff to place 2 elk silhouettes on Park City land