

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR DESIGNING CARNIVORE HIGHWAY CROSSINGS

Bill Ruediger, Wildlife Consulting Resources, 1216 Creek Crossing, Missoula, MT 59802

There has been significant confusion conflict over appropriate highway crossings for carnivores and other species. The concepts of habitat connectivity and wildlife crossing have becoming more established, within resource agencies, highway departments, wildlife professionals and the general public. Various problems still emerge, often because wildlife biologists are not well trained in appropriate highway crossing designs for carnivores and other wildlife species and do not have experience in wildlife crossing design and implementation. State Department's of Transportation (DOT) also have concerns about wildlife crossing costs and efficacy. The result can be disagreements between biologists and engineers or transportation agencies and resource agencies. Gridlock and poor relation hips between agencies are often unexpected outcomes. The paper and presentation deals with

- 1) How biologist's can develop good working relationships with engineers and highway

departments, 2) How to successfully plan for wildlife crossings and wildlife habitat linkages with DOT's, 3) Selecting appropriate wildlife crossings for carnivores and other species, and 4) Wildlife crossing follow-up and learning from successes.