

**MONTANA CHAPTER TWS COMMITTEE ON RECREATION IN WILDLIFE
HABITAT: A PROGRESS REPORT^{TWS}**

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This project is prompted by increasing concern about unintended consequences to wildlife from the increasing variety of recreational activities occurring on public lands and waterways, increasing participation in these activities, rapid changes in technology in recreation equipment and expansion of developed recreation. A position statement titled "Motorized Recreation in Wildlife Habitat" adopted by the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society at its annual meeting in March, 1997, called for formation of an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines to address habitat needs

of wildlife that should be considered in the planning and implementation of motorized access projects. A group of volunteer committee members expanded their charge to include non-motorized, as well as motorized forms of recreation and formulated a task outline that includes compilation of a partially annotated bibliography, a report that includes a historical perspective and issue summary, chapters on recreational impacts in habitat of five wildlife species groups, guidelines for use by resource managers, and a brochure. Committee members are organized into 5 species groups (ungulates, carnivores, birds, small mammals and herpetiles). Members of each species group are annotating papers, developing foundation issues, identifying research needs, and drafting guidelines. A fundraising effort has secured \$58,500 which is being used to fund a contract wildlife biologist/computer specialist to conduct literature searches and compile the bibliography. To date, 2600 references are included in the bibliography. The State Library has agreed to serve as repository for the bibliography. Finished products are scheduled to be available by September 1999, including the Bibliography, a report entitled: Recreational Impacts Upon Wildlife and Their Habitat - A Montana Report with Management Guidelines, and a Brochure summarizing the guidelines. The Committee welcomes assistance from interested individuals or groups - especially in the following areas: (1) Identification of relevant references that are not yet included in our bibliography, (2) Annotation of references, and (3) Documentation of case histories: how and why conflicts with wildlife occurred, or how such conflicts were avoided or resolved.