



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Assessment of Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Mitigation Measures on Idaho State Highway 75 in Blaine County

February 10, 2025

PURPOSE

As part of the Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Subcommittee of the Blaine County Regional Transportation Committee, the local non-profit organization Wood River Land Trust, is commissioning a road ecology team to conduct an assessment of wildlife-vehicle collision (WVC) mitigation measures for State Highway 75 (SH-75) through Blaine County in south-central Idaho.

BACKGROUND

Across south-central Idaho, critical migration routes of pronghorn, mule deer and elk in the Smoky-Boise Complex Priority Area bisect roadways in the rural southern parts of Blaine County and SH-75 in the northern parts of the County. However, the majority of wildlife-vehicle collisions in Blaine County occur on a semi-rural road segment near the center of the County-- north of Hailey, on SH-75— and involve a resident elk herd (see the ITD Highway Safety Dashboard under Additional Resources). As the resident elk meander between the river and fodder on the valley floor, they risk their lives and pose a safety hazard for the increasing number of commuters on SH-75. As with many resort communities in gateway and natural amenity regions-- average daily traffic counts fluctuate on the SH-75 corridor seasonally, with over 20,000 trips per day in July and no fewer than 12,600 daily trips in all other months. Recently, the Blaine County Safety Action Plan found that more than 20% of the crashes in Blaine County involve wildlife-vehicle collisions. The Idaho Transportation Department estimates that the road segment north of Hailey-- between mileposts 117.3 and 126.7-- had the 3rd highest official crash rate involving wildlife across the state, from 2018-2022.

The local effort to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on SH-75 is longstanding. Following the first phase of highway widening in 2009, a working group organized by the County launched a citizen science campaign to collect roadkill data and engaged local students to estimate safe driving speeds. The students' estimates align with present-day recommendations: people can drive about 40 miles per hour-- at maximum-- to avoid a wildlife-vehicle collision at night with medium headlights. As a result of the working group's effort, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) reduced the nighttime speed limit north of Hailey, between McKercher Boulevard and Buttercup Road, to 45 miles per hour. In addition, ITD improved the design of Hospital Bridge to allow for wildlife passage beneath it, along the riparian corridor, and installed additional wildlife warning signage elsewhere on SH-75.



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Now with additional widening planned on SH-75, this privately funded assessment will evaluate different types of mitigation measures with regard to their effectiveness in reducing collisions with deer and elk. The assessment shall consider local factors like the geography of the Wood River Valley floor and the location of residential driveway curb cuts along SH-75. Blaine County Commissioner, Angenie McCleary states that, "The County is committed to improving roadway safety and living in harmony with our local wildlife. A closer look at treatments that are known to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, including how well they'll perform on Highway 75, will be useful to pursuing a solution." Generous donations from long-time supporters of the Land Trust are funding the assessment.

In addition to fielding feedback from the subcommittee and public, Blaine County, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG), Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and Idaho Conservation League (ICL) will steer the scope and completion of the assessment.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Additional guidance on the benefits, costs and engineering feasibility of wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation measures on SH-75 is sought by local partners in Blaine County, Idaho. In collaboration with the Idaho Transportation Department and with technical assistance from Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the local organizations Blaine County, the Wood River Land Trust and Idaho Conservation League seek to explore and build consensus on the pursuit of mitigation measures to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on SH-75. The following tasks outline a scope of services for this collaborative effort:

1. **Task 1:** Conduct a spatial analysis to prioritize highway sections on SH-75 through Blaine County.
 - a. Local partners will provide data related to vehicle traffic, wildlife migration routes, habitat suitability and wildlife-vehicle collisions.
 - b. Spatial analysis may hone the scope of the assessment to focus on priority road segments, as approved by the local project partners.
 - c. Consultant team shall meet with the local project team at least one time to discuss the spatial analysis.
2. **Task 2:** Develop recommendations for each priority road segment.
 - a. Summarize the benefits and estimated costs associated with each recommendation with reference to existing literature reviews of mitigation measures. The estimated benefits and costs of each mitigation measure shall also address implementation, maintenance and the estimated life span.
 - b. Recommendations should be specific to priority road segments, justified by IDFG, ITD and habitat suitability data and acknowledge geographic constraints. Where appropriate, the



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- consultant team may address potential modifications to adjacent private property that would enhance the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.
- c. Consultant team shall meet with the local project team at least three times to discuss the drafted benefits, costs and recommendations for priority road segments.
3. Task 3: Participate in community engagement.
- a. Present preliminary findings to community virtually or in-person at three settings
 - b. Review and approve communications materials developed by local project partners for public consumption and community engagement.
4. Task 4: Compile, deliver and present a final written report.
- a. The consultant team shall draft a written report for two reviews—a preliminary and a final review— by the local project partners.
 - b. The final written report shall describe the methodology, data sources, spatial analysis finds, and mitigation measures that are possible and estimated to be most effective for the wildlife-vehicle collision priority road segments on SH-75 through Blaine County, Idaho. The recommended mitigation measures shall be justified by estimated benefits and costs, based on local data and road ecology literature.
 - c. To guide the implementation of the assessment findings, indicate potential traffic safety, wildlife crossing or other grant opportunities for the implementation of mitigation measures.
 - d. The final written report shall be presented to the Blaine County Board of Commissioners virtually or in-person.

The primary audience for this assessment includes the Idaho Department of Fish and Game— as well as the agencies and jurisdictions in the Blaine County Regional Transportation Committee involved in transportation planning for SH-75, particularly the Blaine County Commissioners and Idaho Transportation Department. The assessment shall serve as an intermediary step— responding to local concern for the high rate of wildlife-vehicle collisions and offering a basis and direction for future implementation of mitigation measures.

The local project partners, especially the Wood River Land Trust, will play a role communicating the methodology, constraints, merits, and findings of the assessment to the general public and concerned community. The final written report should be actionable—meaning that the analyses should be substantively based on local data and road ecology literature, and the recommendations should be both responsive to the local project partners and clear in their justification. The aim of this assessment is to provide a clear direction for the implementation of mitigation measures expected to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions for the priority road segments on SH-75.



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QUALIFICATIONS

The local project partners are seeking a consultant team with:

- Expertise in road ecology.
- Experience working with state departments of transportation, engineering teams, and wildlife biologists.
- Experience studying wildlife-vehicle collisions and mitigation measures for large wild animals, especially resident herds.
- Demonstrated capacity to conduct site-specific analyses, then compile and deliver a report with clear direction.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

If you are interested in conducting this assessment, please provide a proposal with the following documents via e-mail to Community Planning Director, Cece Osborn, at cece@woodriverlandtrust.org by March 7, 2025.

- A letter of interest in the project
- Bios for the staff assigned to the project
- Background information on the applicant organization
- Links to one to three relevant work samples with brief annotations on their relevance to Blaine County's wildlife-vehicle collisions and this assessment. Please indicate if the projects stayed on budget.
- Proposed timeline for the scope of services
- Quotes for each task in the scope of services

Please limit your proposal to no more than ten pages, brevity is appreciated.

REVIEW PROCESS & TIMELINES

The Wood River Land Trust, Blaine County, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Transportation Department, and Idaho Conservation League will review applications. By March 15, 2025 the Wood River Land Trust will follow up to invite a maximum of three finalists for an interview regarding their application.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Project context, description of the transportation corridor and local attention to wildlife-vehicle collisions](#)
- 2008 Literature Review Commissioned by Blaine County, Idaho: "[Wildlife-Vehicle Collision and Crossing Mitigation Measures: A Literature Review for Blaine County, Idaho](#)" by M.P. Huijser & A.V. Kociolek at the Western Transportation Institute (WTI-MSU) at Montana State University
- [2024 Blaine County Safety Action Plan](#)
- [ITD Highway Safety Dashboards, Wild Animal Related Crashes](#)
- Highway widening project link: [State Highway 75, Bellevue to Broadway Run](#)