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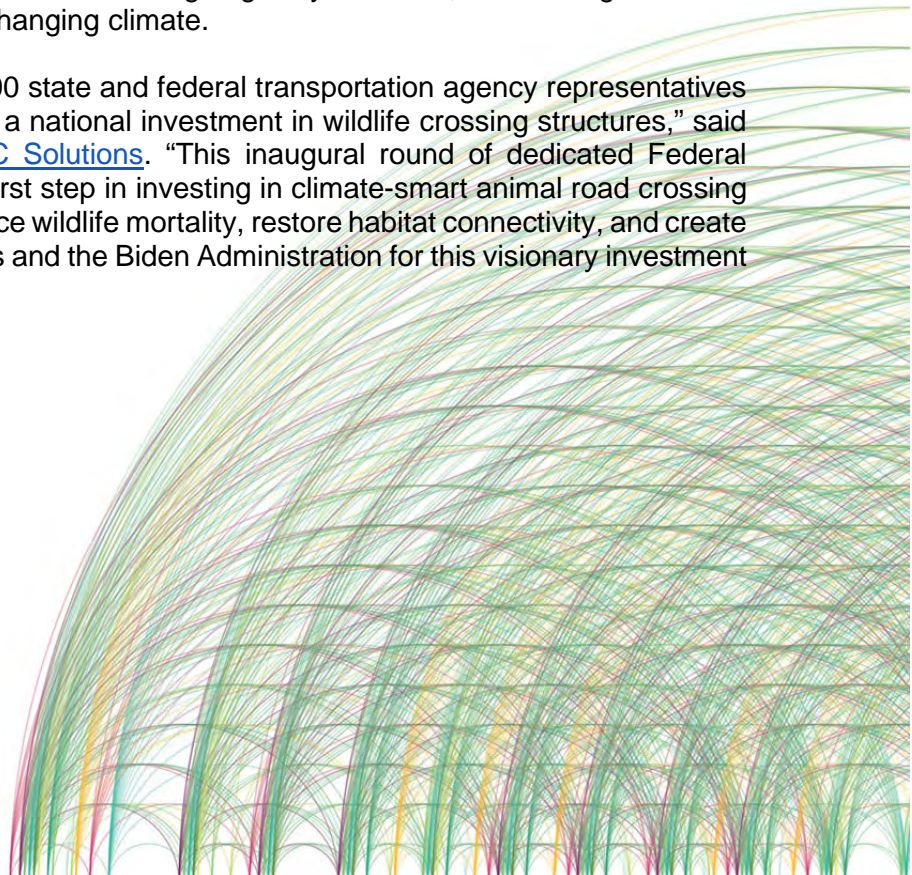
**Inaugural Round of \$110 Million in Wildlife Crossings Pilot Funding
Marks Landmark Investment in Solving a \$10 Billion Problem**

BOZEMAN, MT (December 5, 2023) — Today, we applaud Congress and the Biden Administration for delivering on their bipartisan promise to make our nation's highways safer for people and wildlife with an inaugural investment of nearly \$110 million in funding for the [Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program](#). Part of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), this historic funding marks the first tranche of a once-in-a-generational investment in America's transportation system that includes – for the first time ever – \$350 million in dedicated Federal funding for projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle crashes and reconnect habitats severed by roads.

Every 26 seconds or less a vehicle hits an animal – making highways one of the greatest barriers to wildlife movement on the planet. In addition to killing 1-2 million large animals every year in the United States alone, these collisions result in the loss of 200 human lives and over 26,000 injuries, at a cost to Americans of more than \$10 billion annually. With one in five species in the U.S. at risk of extinction, biodiversity loss and the related disruption of natural wildlife habitats are among the nation's greatest conservation challenges, especially in the face of climate change. Connecting habitats and facilitating wildlife movement by building highway crossing structures enables species to migrate, access resources for survival, and better adapt to changing landscapes and climate.

Numerous research studies show that wildlife crossing structures and fencing that guide animals over or under our nation's highways are highly effective, reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions by up to 97%. These structures reconnect important habitat and allow animals to pass safely over or under roadways, avoiding traffic. The legislation also makes projects to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions eligible for funding under a variety of other transportation programs. Collectively, these new funding and policy provisions will help safeguard biodiversity while reducing highway fatalities, stimulating the U.S. economy, and mitigating the impacts of our changing climate.

“Almost 10 years ago, a survey of close to 500 state and federal transportation agency representatives identified funding as the #1 barrier to making a national investment in wildlife crossing structures,” said Renee Callahan, Executive Director of [ARC Solutions](#). “This inaugural round of dedicated Federal funding for wildlife infrastructure is a crucial first step in investing in climate-smart animal road crossing solutions that will improve human safety, reduce wildlife mortality, restore habitat connectivity, and create good-paying local jobs. We applaud Congress and the Biden Administration for this visionary investment in the safe movement of people and wildlife.”



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Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program Grants. The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded a diverse range of wildlife-vehicle collision reduction and habitat connectivity projects that include: statewide analysis, planning, and prioritization efforts; existing infrastructure retrofits to improve wildlife passage and motorist safety; and capital improvement projects that will expedite the construction of new wildlife crossing structures for a range of wildlife species in priority areas across the nation.

Project Name	Applicant	Project Location	State	Awarded Amount	Project Description
Arizona Interstate- 17 Mitigation of Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions and Habitat fragmentation from Munds Park to Kelly Canyon	Arizona Department of Transportation	Munds Park, AZ	AZ	\$ 23,992,588	The Arizona Department of Transportation will receive \$24 million to construct the I-17 Munds Park to Kelly Canyon Wildlife Overpass Project. The Project includes 16.8 total miles of new wildlife fencing tying in existing culverts, escape ramps, and double cattle guards in order to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) along I-17 and increase habitat connectivity for local species, particularly elk.
Gaviota Pass Wildlife Connectivity and Vehicle Collision Reduction Project	California Department of Transportation	Goleta, CA	CA	\$ 8,000,000	The California Department of Transportation will receive \$8 million to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions and connect animal habitats between protected State Park lands on either side of US 101. Improvements include increasing the size of an existing culvert and installing 2.5 miles of fencing, allowing wildlife to safely cross the highway and move to the adjacent Los Padres National Forest.
The Interstate 25 Greenland Wildlife Overpass Project	Colorado Department of Transportation	Denver, CO to Colorado Springs, CO	CO	\$ 22,000,000	The Colorado Department of Transportation will receive \$22 million to build a dedicated, overpass on I-25 between Denver and Colorado Springs, the state's two most populous cities. Once completed, the Greenland Wildlife Overpass will be one of the largest overpass structures in North America, spanning six lanes of interstate highway. It will help reduce vehicle collisions with big game species such as elk and mule deer along I-25 and connect vital habitats on both sides of the highway from the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains.
Joint Project to Evaluate & Protect Movement of People & Wildlife across Connecticut	Connecticut Department of Transportation	Statewide	CT	\$ 363,104	The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) will receive approximately \$360,000 to collaboratively develop a statewide plan identifying critical habitat blocks, wildlife corridors, and priority road-segments needing wildlife crossings. CTDOT will evaluate their current public facing roadkill reporting tool and conduct a spatial analysis to assist in this effort to reduce the thousands of wildlife-vehicle collisions and hundreds of injuries across Connecticut.
Kentucky's Wildlife-Vehicle Collision Reduction Plan and US-60/ I-64 Corridor Study	Kentucky Transportation Cabinet	Statewide	KY	\$ 1,200,000	The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) will receive \$1.2 million to develop Kentucky's first WVC Reduction Plan in parallel with a pilot corridor study focused on the US-60/I-64 Corridor that will evaluate segments of US 60 and I-64 between the Louisville Metropolitan Area and Frankfort, Kentucky. The statewide plan includes a study to correlate WVC data from different sources along with wildlife habitat data and roadway data to identify priority areas to reduce WVCs and improve habitat connectivity across the state.

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Missouri statewide wildlife vehicle collision reduction analysis and hotspot mitigation measure feasibility study	Missouri Department of Transportation	Statewide	MO	\$ 320,000	The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will receive \$320,000 to collaboratively develop a statewide plan to identify hot spots and mitigation measures. MoDOT will perform a WVC hotspot analysis to identify high WVC road segments, then rank priority areas and conduct feasibility studies to develop site- specific recommendations for cost effective WVC mitigation recommendations to ensure the safety of the traveling public and help promote habitat connectivity in the State.
I-90 Missoula to Garrison Wildlife Crossing Feasibility Study	Montana Department of Transportation	Missoula, MT to Garrison, MT	MT	\$ 424,242	The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will receive \$424,242 to complete a feasibility study for installing wildlife crossings across 68 miles on I-90 between Missoula and Garrison, Montana. By identifying key wildlife migration corridors, the study will help MDT determine the need, type, and feasibility of constructing one or more wildlife crossings that will effectively accommodate both wildlife and motorists, and ultimately reduce the number of WVCs.
US 93: Ninepipe and Post Creek Program-Wildlife Overcrossing Project	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Lake County	MT	\$ 8,591,680	The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will receive \$8.6 million to construct a wildlife overpass spanning US Highway 93 within the Ninepipe National Wildlife Management Area in Montana, an area with high rates of WVCs. The proposed project will help reduce WVCs and improve habitat connectivity for grizzly bears which will reduce crash-related mortality and improve outcomes for grizzly bears.
Wildlife Crossing of Heartland Expressway	Nebraska Department of Transportation	Gering, NE	NE	\$ 400,000	The Nebraska Department of Transportation will receive \$400,000 to conduct a feasibility study to address WVC concerns with big game species along Nebraska Highway 71. The proposed feasibility study would help identify possible solutions for lowering the WVCs along the corridor and reconnecting the bighorn sheep habitats on both sides of the highway.
Mescalero Apache Tribe US 70 Wildlife Vehicle Collision Mitigation Feasibility Project	Mescalero Apache Tribe	Bent, NM to Mescalero, NM	NM	\$ 480,000	The Mescalero Apache tribe will receive \$480,000 to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate solutions for reducing the number of WVCs along US-70, the roadway corridor that has the most crashes in the State of New Mexico. The study will help meet the goals of the New Mexico Wildlife Corridor Action Plan by identifying the existing infrastructure, natural resources, and geospatial crash data along the US- 70 corridor, as well as evaluating the engineering requirements needed to mitigate WVCs and improve connectivity for elk and mule deer.

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Pennsylvania Wildlife Crossings Strategic Plan and Analytical tools	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Statewide	PA	\$ 840,000	The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will receive \$840,000 to develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Game Commission and others to address the wide-ranging challenges and opportunities associated with the safe management and stewardship for wildlife crossings across the state.
South Dakota Statewide Rural Wildlife Crossing Study	South Dakota Department of Transportation	Statewide	SD	\$ 400,000	The South Dakota Department of Transportation will receive \$400,000 to develop a statewide plan with a study on WVCs at specific locations on State highways in rural areas. This study will offer solutions to mitigate the impact of WVCs and ensure the public's safety while preserving wildlife populations, improving habitat connectivity and developing a better understanding of wildlife movement.
Construction of Ocelot Underpass Crossings at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Los Fresnos, TX	TX	\$ 1,778,400	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will receive \$1.8 million to protect the endangered ocelot by installing multiple wildlife underpass crossings on the Steve Thompson Drive at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge contains the largest continuous tract of thorn-scrub habitat in the U.S., which serves as a corridor for the endangered ocelot, that is intersected by the wildlife drive. Adding underpasses will reduce the risk of WVCs and help protect this species from extinction.
US-89 Wildlife Safety Corridor Project	Utah Department of Transportation	Kanab, UT	UT	\$ 5,497,000	The Utah Department of Transportation will receive approximately \$5.5 million to construct three wildlife underpasses and extend existing wildlife fencing along US-89. These underpasses will reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and reconnect mule deer habit and critical ranges.
Prioritizing Wildlife Crossing Locations in Virginia	Virginia Department of Transportation	Statewide	VA	\$ 604,318	The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will receive approximately \$600,000 to collaboratively develop a statewide plan to identify roads with the highest risk of large mammal collisions in the State. Through a collaboration with Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Virginia Department of Forestry, VDOT will build on their Wildlife Corridor Action Plan to create several models and GIS layers to allow for better identification of wildlife crossing sites and provide site-specific recommendations.

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Sharkeyville Brook Wildlife Crossing	Vermont Agency of Transportation	Statewide	VT	\$ 1,620,000	The Vermont Agency of Transportation will receive \$1.6 million to design a wildlife crossing to reduce WVCs and reestablish wildlife connectivity in the heart of the Green Mountains, between some of the largest and least fragmented forest blocks in the northeastern U.S. The proposed underpass will reduce WVCs, improve road safety, and increase habitat connectivity for large animals such as black bears, white-tailed deer, and moose, as well as small aquatic animals such as salamanders and wood turtles.
Habitat Connectivity in the South Cascades of Washington State to Benefit Tribally Significant Wildlife Species via SR 12 Overpass Planning and Scoping	Puyallup Tribe of Indians	Lewis County	WA	\$ 216,250	The Puyallup Tribe of Indians will receive \$216,250 to complete the planning and scoping of wildlife crossing structures in partnership with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and United States Forest Service, and support from the Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes. This project location addresses an area of high concern for WVCs due to large numbers of elk-vehicle collisions on SR 12 across the 24-mile project corridor.
Red Cabin Creek Wildlife Overpass on SR 20, Washington State	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians of Washington State	Hamilton Junction	WA	\$ 8,495,000	The Stillaguamish Tribe in Washington State will receive \$8.5 million to design and construct a wildlife overpass with fencing on rural State Route 20 in Skagit County. The Red Cabin Creek Wildlife overpass at Milepost 76.2 will span two lanes of traffic and is aimed at helping multiple species, including an elk herd whose home range and core habitats straddle the highway.
US 189 Habitat Connectivity Corridor Expansion	Wyoming Department of Transportation	Statewide	WY	\$ 24,358,000	The Wyoming Department of Transportation will receive approximately \$24 million to implement strategies to mitigate WVC fatalities and improve wildlife connectivity for pronghorn and mule deer along US 189 in southwest Wyoming. The proposed project includes a wildlife crossing overpass, several underpasses, and the installation of high barrier wildlife fencing to improve motorist safety and improve habitat access for mule deer and pronghorn.
Total Amount Awarded				\$109,580,582	

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Additional Roadways and Wildlife Resources:

- SUMMARY: *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Wildlife-related discretionary grant project awards*
- INTERACTIVE STORYMAP: *The Wonderful World of Wildlife Crossings*
- INFOGRAPHIC: *Roadways & Wildlife*
- FAQs: *Frequently Asked Questions about Wildlife Crossings*
- VIDEO: *(Re)Connecting Wild: Restoring Safe Passage*
WARNING: This video contains graphic images; please use view discretion.
- REPORT: *Highway Crossing Structures for Wildlife: Opportunities for Improving Driver and Animal Safety*
- REPORT: *Innovative Strategies to Reduce the Cost of Effective Wildlife Overpasses*
- H.R. 3684: *Compilation of the wildlife-related highway provisions included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*
- SUMMARY: *\$350M Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program*