

January 28, 2016

Dear Friends of Safe Wildlife Crossings Collaborative;

This communication is to thank you for your past expressed support for Safe Wildlife Crossings Collaborative (SWCC), a citizens' advocacy effort originated by Vance Carruth, and now incorporated into three non-profits and two local government entities.

The Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance ("the Alliance"), the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation ("Wildlife Foundation"), the Teton County Board of Commissioners (BCC) and the Teton Conservation District (TCD) have all assumed various portions of the strategic plan objectives developed by many of you: with the guidance of the University of Wyoming Haub School of Natural Resources and facilitator Jessica Clements. This planning effort was initiated at an all day meeting at the Murie Center in 2013.

To bring you up to date:

1. The Alliance has adopted Safe Wildlife Crossings into its program advocacy, resulting in BCC action to approve \$100,000.00 for the purpose of preparing a wildlife crossings master plan for the county. A Request for Proposals has been issued with a submittal deadline in January and a committee chosen to review applications. Several members from the SWCC will be serving on the consultant selection committee for the County Engineering Department in the weeks ahead.
2. Chris Colligan, local representative for GYC, continues as a crossings advocate and invited citizen participant in Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) highway planning and review for our area. In collaboration with the Wildlife Foundation, Center for Large Landscape Conservation, Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, and the Alliance, he has also been leading photo documentation of current animal use at different highway locations with TCD financial support.
3. The Wildlife Foundation focuses on specific projects such as Hwy. 390 moose crossings, potential ramp construction on Snake River levies to facilitate animal passage to the water in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, old fence removal, and the operation of electronic warning signs throughout the county. New Foundation Director, Jon Mobeck was an early participant in SWCC.
4. TCD has recently added two wildlife biologists to its staff, one of whom is a GIS Specialist, greatly increasing capacity to bring science to crossing and other wildlife issues. In addition, TCD has the ability to aid in funding projects by others through a tri-annual grant process. TCD is housing the SWCC contact database, in the event any participating agencies, organizations, or individuals wish to contact original partners for the purpose of future meetings or workshops.

Finally, some of you have made donations to SWCC. Those monies, totaling just over \$2,450, have been held in a special account, under the fiscal umbrella of the Alliance because

SWCC was not a non-profit, but rather an ad hoc group of collaborative partners. Our suggestion is to allow the Alliance access to those monies for specific wildlife crossing projects. Your feedback on this proposal is welcome in the next 60 days, by the end of March, after which time the funds will be dedicated to Alliance wildlife crossing efforts.

Once again, your involvement in supporting focus on and support of wildlife crossings in our area is gratefully acknowledged. We are pleased with the strides that have been made, but know there is plenty of exciting and important work ahead. Let TCD know if there is any reason you would like to activate the SWCC list for informational or problem solving activities.

Meanwhile, we encourage you to work with the entities we have described to improve safety for wildlife and the traveling public. If you are willing, please feel free to ask anyone interested in helping with the campaign for a master plan to contact the Alliance.

Best wishes from the original founding Co-conveners of
Safe Wildlife Crossings for Jackson Hole,



Vance Carruth



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