



TransWild Alliance

November 2, 2009



TransWild Alliance Seeks to Reduce Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions

The TransWild Alliance is a coalition of conservation advocacy organizations dedicated to reducing the impacts of highways on wildlife and natural resources.

TransWild Alliance members include:

- Alaska Transportation Priorities Project
- American Wildlands
- BC Conservation, Wildlife Collision Prevention Program
- Berkshire Environmental Action Team
- Center for Native Ecosystems
- Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
- Concord Wildlife Passages Task Force
- Conservation Northwest
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Desert Watch
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council
- Humane Society of the United States
- I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition
- Jaguar Conservancy
- Keeping Track
- Lewis Creek Association
- Maine Audubon
- Miistakis Institute
- Nature Conservancy
- Nevada Wilderness Project
- Ninemile Wildlife Workgroup
- Pronatura
- Round River
- Sky Island Alliance
- SOS Glenshire
- Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project
- The Wilderness Society
- Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition
- Two Countries, One Forest
- UTSB Research
- Virginians for Appropriate Roads
- Western Environmental Law Center
- Western Wildlife Conservancy
- Wild Things Unlimited
- Wildlands Network
- Wildlife Protection Society
- Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

The Federal Highway Administration [estimates](#) that between one and two million vehicles collide with wildlife each year. These crashes cost Americans upwards of \$8 billion and, sadly, more than 150 human fatalities annually.



In an effort to make our roads safer for humans and wildlife, the Western Environmental Law Center, in partnership with the TransWild Alliance, petitioned the [Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA) to require the consideration of wildlife movement when planning federally funded highway projects.

"Wildlife-vehicle collisions pose a threat to public safety and wildlife populations, especially in light of the increased wildlife migration due to global warming. Our [petition](#) to FHWA will ensure that wildlife movement, and mitigation measures such as wildlife under- and over-passes, are considered early in the transportation planning process," said Monique DiGiorgio, Conservation Strategist for WELC.

"We're asking FHWA to require consideration of the natural environment and of potential environmental impacts in determining design criteria for each highway project," said Trisha White, director of the Habitat and Highways Campaign for Defenders of Wildlife. "By addressing the serious problem of wildlife-vehicle collisions, FHWA will make our roadways a safer place for wildlife and motorists alike."



State Farm Insurance recently issued a [report](#) stating that deer-vehicle collisions have jumped 18% in the last five years, to one every 26 seconds, even though the number of vehicles has increased by just 7%.

WELC staff Monique DiGiorgio and attorney Susan Jane Brown (pictured left) and Trish White, Director of the Habitat and Highways program at Defenders of Wildlife, hand-delivered the [petition](#) and proposed [rule](#) to FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez.

WELC has asked FHWA to respond within 90 days to the petition. In the meantime, we will continue to garner a broad base of support for the [rule](#).

The TransWild Alliance is a coalition of conservation advocacy organizations dedicated to reducing the impacts of highways on wildlife and natural resources. Many other organizations signed-on in support of the [petition](#). If you or your organization would like to sign on in support of the petition, please contact Monique DiGiorgio at digiorgio@westernlaw.org.

For more information, please visit:
www.transwildalliance.org