

Subject: WYO 22 Wildlife Crossing Coordination

Project Name: Tribal Trail Connector EA

Location: Skype Meeting

Date/Time: March 19, 2020, 3:30 – 4:30 PM.

Participants:

Dave Schuler – Stakeholder representing Teton Science School
Heather Overholser – Teton County
Gary Fralick – Wyoming Game and Fish
Bob Hammond – WYDOT
Tim Brugger – Morrison Maierle
Pat Basting – Jacobs
Jim Clarke – Jacobs
Whitney Wimer – Jacobs

Copies to: Alyson Courtemanch/WY Game and Fish; Amy Ramage/Teton County; Ted Wells/WYDOT; Amy Ramage – Teton County

Meeting Summary Notes

Action Items found in these notes are **underlined in bold**. Group decisions are **highlighted**. The notes presented below are summary notes.

Meeting Purpose

Discuss wildlife connectivity across WYO 22 and how it relates to Tribal Trail Connector Project, the widening of WYO 22, and the Teton County Wildland Overpass.

Meeting Goal

Share information and coordinate activities between projects and staff

Summary

- Gary has not been part of the Teton County overpass discussions or details of Tribal Trail Connector.
- Provided over view of:
 - Tribal Trail Stakeholder preferred build alternatives, including the underpass at Coyote Canyon/Indian Springs
 - Snake River bridge upgrades
 - Teton County overland wildlife crossing
 - WYO 22 widening
- Underpass at Coyote Canyon/Indian Springs would be a low volume road; if structure was made wide enough wildlife would probably use it.
 - Dave indicated that Teton Science School see elk and moose congregate in the low area where underpass is proposed.
 - Structure would need to have good visibility on both sides
 - Fencing needed to help funnel the animals to the crossing

- If the underpass is designed to accommodate wildlife movement, how would that affect the wildlife overpass?
 - General consensus was the underpass at Coyote Canyon Road would complement and not obviate the need for the wildland overpass just to the west.
- With so many projects occurring in a relatively short time frame, may be better to wait on fencing until all the crossings are built.
 - If possible, try to tie- two-three projects together with fencing.
 - Reduces the cost of building fencing that is then removed during construction and or the completion of a project due to changes in project footprint.
 - Reduces public perception that a crossing didn't work because animals are going around the fencing
- What is the plan for the current pedestrian tunnel under WYO 22?
 - Tunnel to be abandoned because it has structural issues that would require the tunnel to be rebuilt.
- Could the tunnel be repurposed as mule deer crossing?
 - Possibly, the structure would need to be rebuilt.
 - Bob said WYDOT has found it's the height of the structure that's more important than the width.
- What would happen along the "new" portion of Tribal Trail if the road is built?
 - Teton Science School is planning to continue running cattle in the meadow.
 - School has been slowly replacing the fencing around the meadow with wildlife friendly fencing. Currently one section still needs to be replaced.
 - The group agreed that the R/W fencing along the TT road portion through the meadow should be wildlife friendly fence.
- Gary recommends having opposing gates along Tribal Trail, if that's possible.
- Gary recommends a site visit to see the Tribal Trail Project and Wildlife Overpass locations.
 - **County agreed if County Commissioners move forward with Tribal Trail Connector project. If not, the wildlife overpass team will coordinate a site visit.**