



FACT SHEET

The Transportation System

There are: 4 million miles of roadways in the United Statesⁱ

243 million total registered vehiclesⁱⁱ

136 million registered passenger carsⁱⁱⁱ

Frequent Large Mammal Roadkill Facts

Average deer weight: 125-300 pounds

Average deer shoulder height: 3.5 feet

Average moose weight: males 1200-1600 pounds, females 900 pounds

Average moose shoulder height: 6.2 feet

Threats to People

There are 725,000 to 1.5 million wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVCs) in the U.S. every year^{iv}

Over 200 human fatalities annually^v

From 2000-2006, wildlife-related crashes in the United States have claimed 2,307 human lives^{vi}

WVCs cause 29,000 human injuries annually^{vii}

Over a billion dollars in property damage annually^{viii}

While only 2% of deer-car collisions result in human fatalities, 85% of deer-motorcycle collisions result in human fatalities^{ix}

Car-deer crashes in Michigan occur about every eight minutes^x

More than 75,000 deer are killed in New York every year by vehicle collisions^{xi}

6 percent of accidents in Colorado are with wildlife, and can be as high as 25 percent in some areas^{xii}

Deer-vehicle crashes occur most frequently from October to December^{xiii}

Collisions causing human fatalities rose 67% from 1994 to 2006^{xiv}

In Colorado from 1993-2003:

- 26,678 WVCs
- 23 human deaths from WVCs
- 2,266 injuries
- 22,388 damaged vehicles
- \$2,000 average vehicle repair cost
- \$50 million in total damage costs (2003 dollars)^{xv}

Young drivers ages 15-24 are more likely to be involved in a car accident with a large animal than any other age group.^{xvi}

Almost half of all wildlife-related car accidents are because the driver swerved to avoid an animal crossing the road^{xvii}

Threats to Wildlife

Roads can be barriers to animal movement, and sometimes are the leading cause of a species decline^{xviii}

There are 4 to 8 large animal vehicle collisions every hour in Canada^{xix}

50 percent of all endangered Florida panther deaths are caused by collisions with vehicles^{xx}.

15 Florida panthers were killed by vehicles in 2007, a grim new record surpassing 2006's 11 vehicle-caused deaths. There are only an estimated 80-100 Florida panthers left in the wild^{xxi}

In a typical year in British Columbia, Canada:

- 3 people are killed
- 368 motorists are injured
- \$600,000 is spent by the Ministry of Transportation for highway clean-up
- 4,300 animals are recorded as killed
- 13,000 animal deaths go unrecorded^{xxii}

Positive Steps

In Banff National Park in Alberta, Canada, 22 wildlife underpasses and two overpasses have reduced roadkill 80 percent^{xxiii}

Citations

- ⁱ U.S. Department of Transportation. Bureau of Transportation Statistics. National Transportation Statistics 2006. Washington, DC, U.S. Government Printing Office, February 2005
http://www.bts.gov/publications/national_transportation_statistics/2006/pdf/entire.pdf
- ⁱⁱ IBID
- ⁱⁱⁱ IBID
- ^{iv} Huijser, M. National Cooperative Highway Research Program NCHRP Project 20-5, Synthesis of Highway Practice 37-12.
<http://www.trb.org/trbnet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=104>
- ^v IBID
- ^{vi} Fatality Analysis Reporting System, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/Main/index.aspx>. 2008.
- ^{vii} Huijser, M. National Cooperative Highway Research Program NCHRP Project 20-5, Synthesis of Highway Practice 37-12.
<http://www.trb.org/trbnet/ProjectDisplay.asp?ProjectID=104>
- ^{viii} IBID
- ^{ix} Critter Crashes: How to Avoid Deer and Other Animals on a Motorcycle. 2004.
http://www.motorcyclecruiser.com/streetsurvival/preventing_fatal_deer_accidents/
- ^x Michigan Department of Transportation. Michigan speciallists to attend deer-vehicle crash workshop.
http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151-9620_11057-25787--00.html
- ^{xi} State turns dead deer into compost.
<http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071008/NEWS02/710080352/1018>
- ^{xii} Building the great wall of Eagle County.
<http://www.9news.com/news/article.aspx?storyid=78710>
[referencing CDOT]
- ^{xiii} Midwestern States Among Most Dangerous for Vehicles Striking Deer
http://www.statefarm.com/about/media/media_archive/deer.asp
- ^{xiv} Fatality Analysis Reporting System, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/Main/index.aspx>. 2008.
- ^{xv} Higgins, Bruce. Reducing WVCs. Associated Construction Publications. June 25, 2007.
- ^{xvi} Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Nonfatal Motor-Vehicle Animal Crash--Related Injuries --- United States, 2001--2002.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5330a1.htm>
- ^{xvii} IBID

- ^{xviii} Clevenger, A. and J. Wierzchowski. Maintaining and restoring connectivity in landscapes fragmented by roads. IN Connectivity Conservation. Eds. Crooks, R. and M. Sanjayan. Cambridge University Press. 2006
- ^{xix} Wildlife Collision Prevention Program
<http://www.wildlifeaccidents.ca/thefacts.htm>
- ^{xx} The News-Press, July 22 2007, Florida Panther Dwindling Kingdom
- ^{xxi} Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Florida panther deaths increase from collisions with vehicles. June 29, 2007.
<http://myfwc.com/whatsnew/07/statewide/panther-rk.html>
- ^{xxii} Wildlife Collision Prevention Program
<http://www.wildlifeaccidents.ca/thefacts.htm>
- ^{xxiii} Clevenger, A., Crhuszez, and K. Gunson. Highway mitigation fencing reduces wildlife-vehicle collisions. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Summer, 2001), pp. 646-653