

## **What's New at Miistakis?**

### **Road Watch in the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta, Canada**

The Miistakis Institute is pleased to announce the launching of a new project entitled "Road Watch in the Crowsnest Pass". Road Watch in the Pass provides the community the opportunity to report sightings of wildlife crossing Highway 3. The goal of this project is to collect, analyze and communicate information highlighting crossing locations of wildlife along the highway based on local knowledge and observations.

The Crowsnest Pass is an important area for wildlife in the Rocky Mountains. Species such as bear, cougar, deer, elk and sheep require large landscapes with limited human development to maintain strong and healthy populations. Transportation routes such as Highway 3 can have a harmful effect on wildlife populations as well as pose a safety issue for people. In terms of wildlife the highway may limit wildlife movement; reduce useable habitat; or cause wildlife death due to collision with vehicles. Mortality data from the Pass indicates that approximately 200 large mammals are killed in vehicle collisions a year. It is likely that this estimate is low, because it only includes animals that were picked up by Alberta Transportation or Alberta Fish and Wildlife. The more we know about movement patterns, the better able we are to protect the wildlife and people.

Local knowledge is a valuable source of information regarding wildlife in the Crowsnest Pass that is not being used to its full potential. Many citizens of the Pass regularly observe wildlife on the highway and have a rich understanding of wildlife movement patterns.

To participate in the project please visit [www.rockies.ca/roadwatch](http://www.rockies.ca/roadwatch).

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