WARS 2000
Wildlife Accident Reporting System

2000 Annual Report

(1991 to 2000 Synopsis)

Ministry of Transportation
Engineering Branch
Environmental Management Section

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WARS Wildlife Accident Reporting System

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Abstract: The Wildlife Accident Reporting System (WARS) is designed to collect and store information on wildlife killed on highways in British Columbia. Wildlife accident information is used by the Ministry to detect accident trends. The data is used for identifying highway locations that require wildlife mitigation and in establishing policies and strategies for the entire province.

Comments: In 2000, Ministry Maintenance Contractors reported finding 4,768 dead wild animals on British Columbia highways. Approximately 80% of the animals reported killed were deer. The number of wildlife accidents reported to the Ministry decreased by 2.4% from 1999.

Keywords: WARS, Wildlife Accident Reporting System, wildlife, wildlife kills, wildlife accidents, accident statistics, wildlife reflectors, wildlife fencing, British Columbia, cost
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation (MoT) administers the Wildlife Accident Reporting System (WARS). The WARS system is designed to analyze wildlife accident data collected by MoT Maintenance Contractors on numbered highways in British Columbia.

Since 1978, over 70,000 wildlife accidents have been reported on provincial highways. More than 90% of the accidents involved deer, moose and elk. Between 1995 and 2000, 13 people were reported killed in wildlife-related motor vehicle accidents in British Columbia. After weather, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) rates wildlife as the next highest environmental contributing factor for police-attended accidents. Between 1997 and 2000, ICBC spent over $67 million on wildlife-related motor vehicle accident claims.

In 2000, over 4,700 wildlife-related accidents were reported in British Columbia (table below). Between 1999 and 2000, the number of wildlife-related accidents reported fell by 2.4%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife Accidents by MoT Region (Year 2000)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
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<td>258</td>
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In 2000, it is estimated wildlife accidents cost the Province over $18 million in motor vehicle accident claims; $600,000 in highway accident clean-up costs; $300,000 in lost provincial hunting license revenues; and $30 million in lost value to residents and non-residents who view or hunt wildlife.

MoT is committed to protect the safety of the motoring public; stem the rising societal cost of human fatalities and injuries, motor vehicle damage, and highway maintenance; and reduce the loss of wildlife on provincial highways. Consequently, MoT uses the WARS system to:

1. identify wildlife accident-prone locations and wildlife accident trends;
2. direct wildlife accident mitigation efforts;
3. evaluate the effectiveness of wildlife accident mitigation techniques;
4. provide wildlife data for highway planning purposes;
5. model and forecast wildlife accidents; and
6. establish policies and strategies for wildlife accident issues.

The WARS system is becoming an increasingly valuable information resource for MoT, and other government agencies, consultants, researchers, wildlife associations, special interest groups and members of the general public. The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection uses WARS data to assess provincial wildlife population trends. ICBC uses WARS data for identifying highway locations where joint MoT/ICBC initiatives, such as exclusion fencing, warning reflectors, and camera detection systems, can be targeted to reduce wildlife-related motor vehicle collisions.
Acknowledgements

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WARS Wildlife Accident Reporting System

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APPENDIX A

Wildlife Accident Reporting System (WARS) form H-107 (2001/06)

APPENDIX B

Ministry Maintenance Contract Areas

APPENDIX C

Wildlife Warning Reflector Installations (April 2001)