



Ministry of
Transportation

WARS 2000

Wildlife Accident Reporting System

2000 Annual Report

(1991 to 2000 Synopsis)

Ministry of Transportation

Engineering Branch

Environmental Management Section

940 Blanshard Street

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Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9T5



Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

British Columbia. Ministry of Transportation and
Highways. Environmental Services Section.

WARS Wildlife Accident Reporting System ... annual
report. - 1996-

Annual.

Continues: British Columbia. Highway Environment
Branch. Wildlife Accident Reporting System annual
report. ISSN 1203-5521.

ISSN 1203-5521 = WARS Wildlife Accident Reporting
System ... annual report

1. Traffic accident investigation - British
Columbia - Periodicals. 2. Traffic safety and
wildlife - British Columbia - Periodicals.
3. Wildlife Accident Reporting System - Periodicals.
I. Title.

HE5620.W54B74

363.12'51'09711

C99-960119-9

For additional copies of this document, please contact:

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**WARS Wildlife Accident Reporting System
2000 Annual Report (1991 — 2000 Synopsis)**

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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%.

Wildlife Accidents by MoT Region (Year 2000)

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
Wildlife Accidents	258	920	1,461	918	204	1,001	4,762

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

The wildlife accident location mapping presented in this report was made possible with financial support provided by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.

This report was produced with assistance provided by the following British Columbia Ministry of Transportation personnel:

Andrew Thornton, GIS Technician, Information Management Section, Systems Planning and Policy Branch, for ArcView mapping and database assistance;

Brent Chan, Systems Analyst, Application Services, Information Systems Branch, for programming new analytical functions for the WARS system;

Chris Zacharias, Environmental Management Coordinator, Environmental Management Section, Engineering Branch, for proof-reading and editing assistance;

Gord Bonwick, Senior Avalanche Officer, Snow Avalanche Programs, for assistance and advice on ArcView and operational GIS applications;

Gord Smith, Graphics Technician, Engineering Branch, for graphic services;

Jonathan Robinson, Consultant, Business Services, Information Systems Branch, for systems liaison and support for the WARS system;

Joya Bhandari, Consultant, Geometric Standards and Design Section, Engineering Branch, for digital mapping services;

Lloyd Lucyshyn, Graphics Technician, Engineering Branch, for mapping services;

Melanie Perkins, Transportation Program Planning Engineer, Engineering Branch, for providing advice and direction for statistical analysis of accident trends;

Suzanne Harrison, Administrative Assistant, Engineering Branch, for collecting and processing WARS monthly reports; and

Wayne Yee, Consultant, Geometric Standards and Design Section, Engineering Branch, for digital mapping services.

WARS Wildlife Accident Reporting System

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APPENDIX B

Ministry Maintenance Contract Areas

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Wildlife Warning Reflector Installations (April 2001)