Agenda followed:

- Kris facilitated introductions
- Angela provided overview of project: objectives, study area, scope and specific tasks
- Lance provided details of research plan:
  - Species of focus
    - Species of focus for this project also of research interest to FWP
    - Small population of pronghorn; where do they go?; possibility of FWP collaring
    - Small population of bighorn
    - Female grizzly bear with two cubs, furthest west seen out of Yellowstone NP. It’s been at edge of highway at times.
    - This project will make any observations of bears, elk, wolves, lynx and even amphibians. For example, boreal toad is a species of concern. Toad habitat requirements for wet and dry conditions may require road crossings which may pose a problem for them.
  - Methodology
- Cameras will provide qualitative data on what species are using larger culverts; likely near Indian Creek, Beaver Creek among others.

- Road kill data will show patterns; numbers aren't meaningful but patterns will tell of issues.

- Tiffany will document live and dead animals.

- Track bed possible at Papoose Creek because forest may funnel movement close to road; this area probably important in the long run because USFS.

  - Work to date
    - Started amassing data layers plus have some past work to draw from.
    - Showed models of connectivity

  - Research plan
    - Will do hotspot analysis for where road kill is higher than normal
    - Will put project in context of these highways but also reminded us its part of a bigger picture; suggest sharing results with ITD because USFS land spans MT and ID borders [Kris said MDT already shares results with other DOTs]
    - GIS will include a transactional database [Kris said Deb Wambach is part of a working group of agencies that could update for whatever reason]
    - Will use ROCS – PDA-GPS device to record all spatial data

Discussion to coordinate with MDT maintenance since they are also collecting road kill data

- Possibility MDT will use Droid tablets; WTI can send form to John to ensure compatibility between ROCS and Droid forms.

- Kyle said phoning data in is not an option because only have landlines; use of personal phones is not encouraged

- Kris said can easily purchase two Droid units for Duck Creek and Ennis stations.

- Lance said paper is okay as long as document nearest 1/10 mile post on forms.
• Angela asked what is realistic for data reporting from crews. Kyle said crews can get online to Helena. Typically move carcasses to ROW so they cannot be seen from road and record mile post and species. Tablets can work but crew is not always in same pick up trucks. Craig said they also mark distance to mile post so it’s pretty accurate.

• Kraig said Montana Highway Patrol data comes way later. Kris said willing to send to us.

• John asked how many carcasses crews find per week. Kyle didn’t know.

• Angela presented deliverables and schedule:
  o noted schedule adjustments per contract; some deliverables are later than stated in proposal

• Angela opened Q&A:
  o Angela asked about process required for MDT assistance in building track beds. Kyle said can haul material if we provide locations. Reminded us it’s not okay to put material too close to culverts. Lance said we’d require two dump truck loads at most and also that the salt-sand mixture might attract animals. Kris said MMS data includes salt application and mowing schedules.
  o Lance inquired about possibility of giving presentations since the public has expressed interest. Kris said it’s okay to say what the project is about (general info) but not to share preliminary data or recommendations until final report; it can cause problems/expectations otherwise. Kris also said MDT must get credit and that MDT should see presentation material beforehand.

• Kris discussed contract:
  Timeliness is critical.
  o She will act as liaison between WTI and MDT; we can call or email anytime.
  o We must let Kris know of any change in personnel, scope, time, budget and to get permission to present.
  o Any documentation is needed a minimum of two weeks prior to meeting.
  o 15% will be held back until project is completed.
If sending any file bigger than 1 MB, use ftp.

Any draft version is still considered best effort.

All documentation from this project will be on a project website.

All reviews require a line item comment response.

Quarterly reports are due and the end of the month after each quarter.

Notes:

KC: After the kickoff meeting and talking to Kraig and Sue- we will keep the carcass data collection as it is done-the only change will be the time of submission. Asking that Maintenance send it in weekly.

AK: Since the kick off meeting, Angela spoke with District VII MHP Captain Reddick to inform him that Tiffany will be conducting roadside data collection on a regular basis. During the conversation, he suggested we contact Jake Boltz with regard to MHP crash data reports. Jake offered to provide monthly reports directly to WTI.