

## Research Project Quarterly Progress Report

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Consultant project managers/principal investigators should complete a quarterly progress report for each calendar quarter, or part thereof, during which project is active. All fields must be completed.*

<b>Date:</b> 30 July 2013		<b>Progress Report Number:</b> Quarterly Report 2013-2											
<b>Project Title:</b> US 93 North Post-Construction Wildlife-Vehicle Collision and Wildlife Crossing Monitoring and Research on the Flathead Indian Reservation between Evaro and Polson, Montana		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"><b>Report Period:</b></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;"><b><u>Due Date</u></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>April 30</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>July 31</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>October 31</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>January 31</i></td> </tr> </table>		<b>Report Period:</b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)	<i>April 30</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30)	<i>July 31</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30)	<i>October 31</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)	<i>January 31</i>
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<b>Consultant Name</b> Marcel Huijser  Authors quarterly report: Marcel Huijser, Whisper Camel-Means & Elizabeth Fairbank		<b>Consultant Project Manager(s):</b> Marcel Huijser											
<b>Consultant Phone Number(s):</b> 406-543-2377	<b>Consultant E-Mail(s):</b> mhuijser@coe.montana.edu	<b>Consultant Project Number:</b> 4W2972											
<b>MDT Project Manager</b> Sue Sillick	<b>MDT Project Number:</b> #8208	<b>Project Start Date:</b> 1 January 2010											
<b>Original Project End Date:</b> 31 July 2015	<b>Current Project End Date:</b> 31 July 2015	<b>Number of Extensions:</b> 0											

### Project Schedule Status:

☐ On schedule
 ☐ On approved revised schedule
 ☐ Ahead of schedule
 ☒ Behind schedule

**Project Expenses Statistics:**

<b>Project Expenses This Quarter</b>	<b>Total Project Expenses to Date</b>	<b>Projected Cost to Date</b>
\$12,314	\$218,196* <sup>1</sup>  * <sup>1</sup> Invoices from CSKT received through April 2013.	\$332,284 (incl. \$50K in 2012)

<b>Percent Over/Under</b>	<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>Remaining Total Budget</b>
34% under budget (but see note on billing CSKT above)	\$550,000 (incl. \$50K in 2012)	\$331,803

**Project Schedule Status** (list all tasks with percentage complete, original and revised estimated and actual begin date; original and revised estimated and actual completion date, any outstanding issues, including such items as: schedule, resources, etc.):

Task	Planned Percentage complete	Actual Percentage complete
1. Deer and black bear vehicle collisions	70%	65% <sup>*1</sup>
2. Wildlife use of underpasses	70%	60% <sup>*2</sup>
3. Cost-benefit analyses	70%	60% <sup>*3</sup>

**Dates:**

This is a long term project with many tasks that reoccur annually.

The starting date for the tasks was 1 January 2010 and the end date for the project is 31 July 2015.

**Notes:**

\*1 Behind: crash and carcass data were requested from MDT on 8 May 2013 and received on 18 May 2013

\*2

Crossing structures:

Behind: Data entry for 2012 for Evaro and Ravalli Curves, and isolated structures in Evaro area is not complete yet.

Data entry for crossing structures through 31 December 2012 was completed by mid July 2013 though.

Jump-outs: Data entry not initiated yet.

Deer pellet surveys: on schedule.

\*3 Basic data have been obtained in 2011 and 2012. Analyses are possible now but have not been conducted yet.

**Progress and Accomplishments this Quarter** (includes meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.):

**1. TAC meeting**

A TAC meeting was held in Missoula on 26 March 2013.  
Meeting notes and status of action items are listed below.

Open action items:

- a. Marcel:
  - i. Suggests changes to measures of effectiveness because of mistake fence length vs. road length fenced. Action item open.
- b. Sue and Marcel
  - i. Schedule meeting September/October to discuss financial situation and potential changes to the work scope. Action item open.
- c. MDT
  - i. Discuss
    - Financial gap current project (4 yrs EV, RC, RH, and isolated structures, and 5<sup>th</sup> yr RC, RH). Action item open.
    - Potential new funding for 5<sup>th</sup> year Evaro and isolated structures (would need to start 1 January 2015, provided that the financial gap for 4<sup>th</sup> yr is solved of course). Jonathan Floyd reported (8 May 2013) that safety funds are not available. Action item open for alternative funding sources.

Updates:

- d. MDT
  - i. Repair fence SE of overpass: done

**2. Grant proposal.**

Grant proposal submitted to Federal Lands Access Program for 5<sup>th</sup> year monitoring Evaro to 2013 was not successful (notice received 19 July 2013).

**3. Publications:**

*Formal publication of peer-reviewed article:*

Tiffany D. H. Allen, Marcel P. Huijser and David W. Willey. Effectiveness of wildlife guards at access roads. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. 37(2):402–408.

*Podium presentation given at ICOET 2013 conference:*

Hayley R. Connolly-Newman, Marcel P. Huijser, Len Broberg, Cara R. Nelson, Whisper Camel-Means: Effect of cover on small mammal movement through wildlife underpasses on Highway 93 North.

*Posters presented at ICOET 2013 conference:*

1. Tiffany D. H. Allen, Marcel P. Huijser and David W. Willey. Effectiveness of wildlife guards at access roads.
2. Kylie Paul, Whisper Means, Marcel Huijser, Rob Ament. Outreach matters! Highway wildlife mitigation outreach activities on the Flathead Indian Reservation and surrounding areas, Montana.
3. Jeremiah Purdum, Marcel P. Huijser, Whisper Camel-Means, Mark Hebblewhite, Len Broberg: Acceptance of large mammal underpasses by white-tailed deer and mule deer.

MSc theses:

Purdum, J.P. 2013. ACCEPTANCE OF WILDLIFE CROSSING STRUCTURES  
ON US HIGHWAY 93 MISSOULA, MONTANA. MSc Thesis, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT, USA.

Connolly-Newman, H.R. 2013. EFFECT OF COVER ON SMALL MAMMAL PRESENCE AND MOVEMENT THROUGH  
WILDLIFE UNDERPASSES. MSc Thesis, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT, USA.

#### **4. Thesis defenses and graduations**

Jeremiah Purdum:  
Graduated in June 2013

Hayley Connolly-Newman:  
Defended on 20 May 2013  
Graduated in June 2013

#### **6. Field**

Jump-outs Evaro  
Monitoring tracking beds jump-outs Evaro started 8 May 2013.

Monitoring Crossing structures, wildlife guards continued.

**Circumstances Affecting Project, Scope, or Budget** (please describe any challenges encountered or anticipated that might affect the completion of the project within the time, scope and fiscal constraints set in the agreement, along with recommended solutions to those problems):

As discussed previously there are substantial financial shortfalls for the project.

Substantial savings have been made through CSKT (had access to supplementary funding) and through involving students. It is uncertain though if these savings are sufficient to allow for the completion of the current work scope and how long student labor is available (as it is it will run out later this summer).

A decision should be made about potentially modifying the work scope in Sep/Oct 2013.

#### **Results/Risk/Anything Learned:**

## Anticipated Work Next Quarter:

### Field:

Crossing structures

Monitoring crossing structures Evaro and isolated structures continues.

Note: Monitoring crossing structures Ravalli Curves and Hill will **has ended** in May 2013 (end 5<sup>th</sup> season).

Wildlife guards (4) and people access point (1)

Monitoring continues.

Jump-outs Evaro

Monitoring tracking beds jump-outs Evaro started 8 May 2013.

Pellet groups Evaro:

Scheduled for August/September 2013

### Desk:

Human safety data

Analyze data for 2012.

Crossing structures

Analyze data for 2012.

Continued data entry for 2013.

Wildlife guards and people access point:

Enter data.

Jump-outs Ravalli Curves, Hill and Evaro

Enter data.

Economic analyses:

Conduct analyses.

**Separate from MDT project:**

**1. Excursions**

On 17 June the US93 People's Way Partnership organized an aerial excursion for CSKT and MDT representatives and a journalist over the project area thanks to the support of LightHawk.

This resulted in a substantial article in the Missoulian: [http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/recreation/research-on-highway-wild/crossings-nearly-complete/article\\_aefa9130-d963-11e2-a600-001a4bcf887a.html](http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/recreation/research-on-highway-wild/crossings-nearly-complete/article_aefa9130-d963-11e2-a600-001a4bcf887a.html)

**2. Grants**

Grant proposal submitted to Doll Foundation.

**Potential Implementation, including the party(ies) responsible for implementation, any identified barriers to implementation and a discussion of how these barriers can be eliminated or at least reduced, and the products required for implementation:**

The outreach program (separate from MDT project) aims to make the lessons learned accessible to the transportation and natural resource management community. It is up to agencies to evaluate or update their own policy with regard to highway wildlife mitigation though.