



## 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 April 2014		<b>Progress Report Number:</b> Quarterly Report 2014-1									
<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		<b>Report Period:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;"><u>Due Date</u> <i>April 30</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input 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>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)	<u>Due Date</u> <i>April 30</i>	<input 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 2016	<b>Number of Extensions:</b> 0 (work scope changed)									

### Project Schedule Status:

- On schedule     
  On approved revised schedule     
  Ahead of schedule     
  Behind schedule

### Project Expenses Statistics:

Project Expenses This Quarter	Total Project Expenses to Date	Projected Cost to Date
\$37,213.65	\$298,200.22* <sup>1</sup>  * <sup>1</sup> Invoices from CSKT received And processed through 31 Dec 2013.	\$387,321.23  (incl. \$50K added in 2012)

Percent Over/Under	Total Project Budget	Remaining Total Budget
24% under budget (but see note on billing CSKT above)	\$703,893.90 (incl. \$50K added in 2012) (incl. \$153,893.53 added in 2014)	\$405,693.68

**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*1	Actual Percentage complete*1
1. Deer and black bear vehicle collisions	70%	70% <sup>*2</sup>
2. Wildlife use of underpasses	70%	65% <sup>*3</sup>
3. Cost-benefit analyses	70%	70% <sup>*4</sup>

\*1 Reflects end date field work 31 Dec 2015

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 2016.

Notes:

\*2 Crash and carcass data have been collected and analyzed through 2012. Data through 2013 have been requested from MDT.

\*3 Crossing structures: Data entry for 2013 is ongoing, anticipated reporting data is 30 June 2014.

Jump-out data through 2012 completed and summarized (see earlier quarterly report).

Calibration data tracking beds (inside and outside structures and cameras): data entry and analyses is ongoing.

Deer pellet surveys: completed for 2013.

\*4 Basic data have been obtained in 2011 and 2012. Some analyses are possible (with crash and carcass data through 2012) now but have not been conducted yet. Since the analyses will be based on actual crash and carcass data through 2015, we propose to not conduct these analyses until all the data have been collected. The funds for this project are problematic because of UTC shortfall (\$100,591) and underfunding for 5<sup>th</sup> year Ravalli Curves and Ravalli Hill (\$6,658.32). Therefore we suggest conducting these analyses only once towards the end of the project.

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

1. We recommended changes in the Measures of Effectiveness in January 2014. These were included in the previous quarterly report. In addition we wrote a summary memo with our recommendations.
2. Data entry for images at the structures for 2013 is ongoing and this is where most of the effort has been this quarter.

**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 (current student labor it ran out in January 2014). It is essential we find 1 or 2 additional students quickly.

**Results/Risk/Anything Learned:**

1. Preliminary data entry showed 1 elk using Finley Creek 4 underpass in 2013. Additional elk observations for 2013 may or may not follow based on images that have not been interpreted yet.

**Anticipated Work Next Quarter:**

**Field:**

Crossing structures  
Monitoring crossing structures Evaro and isolated structures continues.

Wildlife guards (4) and people access point (1)  
Monitoring continues.

Jump-outs Evaro  
Restore tracking beds jump-outs Evaro early May 2014.  
Monitoring tracking beds jump-outs Evaro will start again early May 2014.

**Desk:**

Crossing structures

Continued data entry for 2013.

Wildlife guards and people access point:  
Enter data.

Jump-outs Evaro  
Enter data 2013.

Economic analyses:  
Wait until all crash and carcass data have been collected (through 2015)

**Separate from MDT project:**

**1. Excursions/presentations**

Marcel Huijser provided an excursion to over 30 Wildlife Conservation students (WILD 370) from the University of Montana on 20 March 2014.

On Thu 27 March Marcel Huijser provided a lecture to two pre-school classes at the Missoula International School in Missoula. This was about road ecology in general rather than specific to US93N.

**2. Interpretive signs US 93 N**

Interpretive signs for the mitigation measures along US93 N are scheduled to be installed at rest area near Bison Range.

**3. Funding Outreach**

A grant proposal was submitted to Y2Y.

**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.