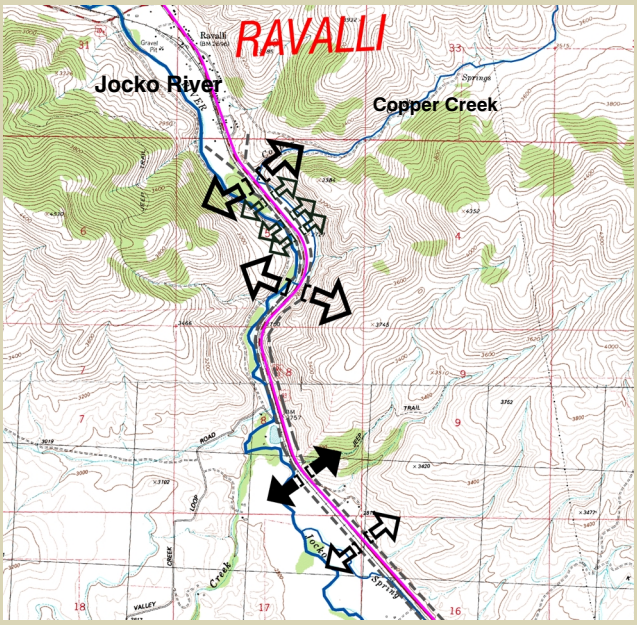
US 93 FISH AND WILDLIFE CROSSINGS

18. Ravalli Curves #2 Wildlife Crossing

Arlee - Ravalli Segment

This area has great significance for fish and wildlife crossing. The Jocko River is bull trout bearing. Two tributaries in this area, Copper Creek and Spring Creek have been altered by highway fills and embankments. Restoring these water channels will greatly improve fish and wildlife habitat. Raising the road in concert with providing undercrossings, would improve motorist safety and allow wildlife to move through the canyon. Anticipated use by: black bears, grizzly bears, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, elk, deer, etc.



Design Recommendations

Recommended crossing type: *Corrugated metal pipe or concrete box culvert*
Approximate dimensions: *12' x 22'*

Notes:

Continue 8' page wire fencing along both sides of road.
Begin 8' page wire fencing south of Schall Flats #4 crossing; continue to a point south of Ravalli. Provide cattle guards for connecting roads and driveways. Fencing on west side of road to be placed below sight line.

Criteria for locations of crossings:

1. **Winter tracking** - NA.
2. **Summer Game Trails -** NA.
3. **Road Kill Data** - Tribal data from 1/95-10/98 combined with MDT data from 12/97-1/00 indicates an **extremely high concentration of kills in this area (31 kills)**.
4. **Habitat** - The road bisects two areas of good mountain habitat, and runs adjacent to excellent riparian habitat (the Jocko River) fed by two tributaries (Spring Creek and Copper Creek). These tributaries increase the fish and wildlife habitat value.
5. **Engineering Practicality** - The physical constraints of this canyon pose a challenge.