



## 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> 31 July 2014		<b>Progress Report Number:</b> Quarterly Report 2014-2									
<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		<b>Report Period:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;"><u>Due Date</u> <i>April 30</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30)</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;"><i>July 31</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 3 (July 1 – September 30)</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;"><i>October 31</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (October 1 – December 31)</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;"><i>January 31</i></td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter 1 (January 1 – March 31)	<u>Due Date</u> <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 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
\$27,544	\$325,745* <sup>1</sup>  * <sup>1</sup> Invoices from CSKT received And processed through 31 Dec 2013.	\$406,666  (incl. \$50K added in 2012)

Percent Over/Under	Total Project Budget	Remaining Total Budget
21% under budget (but see note on billing CSKT above)	\$703,893.90 (incl. \$50K added in 2012) (incl. \$153,893.53 added in 2014)	\$378,148

**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.):

<b>Task</b>	<b>Planned Percentage complete*1</b>	<b>Actual Percentage complete*1</b>
1. Deer and black bear vehicle collisions	75%	75% <sup>*2</sup>
2. Wildlife use of underpasses	75%	70% <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 2013 (see recent annual report).

\*3 Crossing structures: Data have been analyzed through 2013 (see recent annual report).

Jump-out data through 2013 completed and summarized (see recent annual 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. Annual report for data through 2013 was submitted
2. Tracking beds jump-outs Evaro were restored on 6 May 2014.
3. Cameras are managed continuously (change batteries, memory cards, download data)
4. Data entry images at the structures for 2014 is ongoing.

**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. Current student labor is not available. It is essential we find 1 or 2 additional students quickly.

**Results/Risk/Anything Learned:**

1. See annual report with data through 2013.
2. Fence problems in Evaro were reported by WTI/CSKT. In response MDT fixed the fence issues.

**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  
Monitoring tracking beds jump-outs Evaro is ongoing.

**Desk:**

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

**Separate from MDT project:**

**1. Interpretive signs US 93 N**

Interpretive signs for the mitigation measures along US93 N were installed at rest area near Bison Range. The sign at the out on Polson Hill was installed last year already.

**2. Funding Outreach**

\$1000 from MDT 28 Apr 2014 for printing costs outreach materials  
\$3000 Y2Y 26 Apr 2014

**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.

Fence maintenance continues to be an issue. Problems that are reported are not always quickly or adequately addressed. In addition, MDT and/or contractors left a substantial gap in fence throughout winter at a construction site. This suggests that the importance and function of the wildlife fencing is not fully understood by all parties involved. Gaps in the fence have consequences for human safety as well as the conclusions that will be drawn about the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.