



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.

Date: 31 July 2014		Progress Report Number: Quarterly Report 2014-3									
Project Title: US 93 North Post-Construction Wildlife-Vehicle Collision and Wildlife Crossing Monitoring and Research on the Flathead Indian Reservation between Evaro and Polson, Montana		Report Period: <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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Quarter 2 (April 1 – June 30)	<i>July 31</i>	<input checked="" 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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Consultant Name Marcel Huijser Authors quarterly report: Marcel Huijser, Whisper Camel-Means & Elizabeth Fairbank		Consultant Project Manager(s): Marcel Huijser									
Consultant Phone Number(s): 406-543-2377	Consultant E-Mail(s): mhuijser@coe.montana.edu	Consultant Project Number: 4W2972									
MDT Project Manager Sue Sillick	MDT Project Number: #8208	Project Start Date: 1 January 2010									
Original Project End Date: 31 July 2015	Current Project End Date: 31 July 2016	Number of Extensions: 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
\$14,741	\$340,486* ¹ * ¹ Invoices from CSKT received And processed through 31 Aug 2014, total of \$114,166.24	\$467,927 (incl. \$50K added in 2012)

Percent Over/Under	Total Project Budget	Remaining Total Budget
27% under budget (but see note on billing CSKT above) (but note that over \$107k needs to be saved)	\$703,893.90 (incl. \$50K added in 2012) (incl. \$153,893.53 added in 2014)	\$355,948

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	75%	75% ^{*2}
2. Wildlife use of underpasses	82%	77% ^{*3}
3. Cost-benefit analyses	70%	70% ^{*4}

*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 latest 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 5th 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. Cameras are managed continuously (change batteries, memory cards, download data).
2. Ongoing vegetation maintenance in front of cameras.
3. Monitoring tracking beds jump-outs Evaro is ongoing.
4. Data entry images at the structures for 2014 is ongoing.
5. Pellet group data were collected in Evaro area (transects located, marked, and adjacent land owners were contacted (August 18), and data was collected August 20-21 2014)

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. Currently no 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.
3. Livestock fence on sides of overpass appears to hinder wildlife movements, especially by elk. If the fence is not really needed for livestock (perhaps north side of overpass?) then consider removing livestock fence on one or both sides) .

However, the barrier effect of the livestock fence needs to be evaluated in the context of the overpass also having a very steep slope (limited sight distance for the animals), no visual screens on the sides of the overpass, and no shrubs or small trees on the overpass (only grass-herb vegetation with row of branches on both sides for small species including invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals).

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)

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 this MDT research project) aims to make the lessons learned accessible to the transportation and natural resource professionals. Field trips were conducted to the project area for the North American Congress for Conservation Biology in July and for a workshop of the Western Governors' Association in September. Hope attendees of both events will have received information that will help them make future decisions regarding wildlife mitigation.

Fence maintenance is a concern. Recent fencing issues have been resolved so that wildlife cannot crawl under gaps in the fence. Researchers have been reporting problems, but after research concludes fence problems may go undetected and unaddressed for significant time periods. This may adversely affect human safety as well as the biological conservation of focal species. MDT may want to seek to improve operational procedures for detecting and repairing wildlife fences so that it is in place before the field research concludes.