

## **Making Oregon Roads Safer for People and Wildlife – Support House Bill 4130 (2022)**

Collisions with wildlife on our roadways have serious consequences for people and wildlife. HB 4130 invests \$5 million in targeted projects that reduce these collisions, and is a win for motorists, wildlife, and communities across the state.

### ***Public Safety***

[Oregon has the highest likelihood of wildlife crashes among west coast states.](#) In 2019, the state Department of Transportation recorded 6,100 wildlife-vehicle collisions, with [twice that many more collisions likely going unreported.](#) These collisions cause hundreds of injuries to drivers and a number of fatalities each year.



### ***Financial Savings***

With the [annual cost associated with wildlife collisions estimated to exceed \\$8 billion nationally,](#) wildlife crossings are a wise investment. Considering vehicle damage, medical expenses, and lost hunting value in 2021 dollars, the average [cost of a deer collision is \\$9,086 and an elk collision is \\$24,006,](#) and the cumulative cost of collisions with those two species in Oregon totaled \$56.9 million in 2020. The public resource value of an animal to the state can, on its own, be as high as [\\$50,000 per animal for some species.](#)

### ***Ecological Impact***

Vehicle collisions [negatively impact wildlife migration and populations.](#) Nationally, more than a million animals are killed by motorists each year – over two per minute. In Oregon, [vehicle collisions kill threatened Pacific marten,](#) and mule deer (the most commonly hit animal in the state) have seen [population declines up to 54% in recent years.](#) Protecting historic migratory corridors is vital to the health and resilience of wildlife populations in the face of development and a changing climate.

### ***Proven Effectiveness***

Road design elements, such as wildlife underpasses or overpasses, are proven to significantly reduce collisions. In its first year, the Lava Butte wildlife underpass on Hwy 97 in Central Oregon was used by 29 different species and [reduced deer collisions by over 90 percent.](#) A new underpass at Gilchrist is producing similar results.

### ***Timely Opportunities***

With only 5 wildlife crossings, Oregon significantly trails other western states – CO has 69, UT and CA each have 50, and NV has 23 for large mammals alone. However, many opportunities exist, informed by state agency data on hot spots. Some examples include I-5 near Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, I-84 near Meacham, Hwy 140 outside Klamath Falls, Hwy 26 near Dayville, and Burns Paiute Tribe land in Malheur County where Hwy 20 bisects high-density mule deer winter range that has [great cultural significance to the Tribe.](#)

### ***Leveraging Federal Funds***

Congress recently allocated \$350 million to competitive grants through a [Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program.](#) Oregon can compete for dedicated federal resources by prioritizing projects and allocating state matching funds.

### ***Broad Support***

There is broad bipartisan support for wildlife crossings from voters in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the state. A 2020 poll found that [86% of Oregon voters favor constructing more wildlife crossings and 75% support increased funding](#) for this purpose.

## **Please support HB 4130, an important investment in safer roads for people and wildlife**

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Oregon  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Central Oregon LandWatch  
Deschutes Land Trust  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Environment Oregon  
Greater Hells Canyon Council  
Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust  
Humane Voters Oregon

Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Manulife Timberland & Agriculture  
Mule Deer Foundation  
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts  
Oregon Environmental Council  
Oregon Hunters Association  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Oregon Wildlife Foundation  
Protect Animal Migration

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Rogue Valley Audubon Society  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
Southern Oregon Land Conservation  
The Humane Society of the United States  
The Pacific Forest Trust  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
WildAid

**Coalition of Support for HB 4130 – Wildlife Road Crossing Infrastructure**



Soda Mountain  
Wilderness Council  
P.O. Box 512 • Ashland, Oregon 97520

