Colorado Corridors Project: Community Engagement and Wildlife Mitigation along the I-70 Corridor

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Highways prohibit access to historic migration routes, prevent wildlife from finding other members of their species, and create safety hazards for animals and people.

In Colorado, Interstate-70 bisects the entire state.
To promote greater landscape connectivity, numerous assessments identified Vail Pass as an area in great need of mitigation.
Convening Stakeholders
 Agencies, NGOs, Potential Funders, Surrounding Communities

Technical advisory committee of biologists from:

DOT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FOREST SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Federal Highway Administration

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
NURSERY
I-70 Eco-Logical Project (2009-2011)

Developed solutions for restoring and mitigating transportation impacts on wildlife habitat connectivity and reducing animal-vehicle collisions along the I-70 Mountain Corridor from Genesee (MP 256) to west of Dotsero (MP 130).
ARC Competition: Winning Design for the Proposed I-70 Wildlife Overpass
East Vail Pass Location

Mile Post 192.3 over the westbound lanes

• Nearly 80 volunteers engaged from surrounding communities
• Collaboration between Denver Zoo, Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project (now RMW), and Walking Mountains Science School
Citizen Involvement:  
I-70 Wildlife Watch  
(2009-present)

- Motorists report observations of live and dead animals (564 to date)
- Educate drivers
- Learn about wildlife crossing hotspots

Goals:
Engaged citizen naturalists (71 participants) and promoted stewardship of North America's important wildlife corridors

Goals:
- Engage public, agencies, nonprofit partners, and potentially funders
- Collect critical pre-construction data to assess effectiveness
What next?