

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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**Action:** Be Adopted

**Vote:** 10 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Bentz, Berger, Boone, Doherty, Edwards, Gilman, Kahl, Schaufler, Smith G., Beyer

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/17

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Transportation to establish a wildlife safety corridor on U.S. Highway 26 between Picture Gorge and Prairie City in memory of Raymond Moles.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Wildlife migration patterns in the region
- Types of signage that will be posted
- Work of Raymond Moles

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The approximately 50-mile stretch of Highway 26 through the John Day Valley is a deer and elk migration area. Wildlife crossing the highway is a safety hazard to motorists, particularly during migration seasons. In the fall of 2009 the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) began using global positioning systems for more accurate location data in tracking large animal deaths to better notify motorists of the animals' presence. Between October and mid-December 2009, 41 mule deer and two Rocky Mountain Elk died in animal-vehicle collisions on U.S. 26 between Dayville and John Day.

Raymond Moles and others participated in efforts to mark the highway and reduce speeds. He was involved in the collaboration between ODOT and ODFW to reduce the mortality rate for large game in the Picture Gorge region.