

From: [BAKER Lindsay *ODOT](#)
To: [Rep Witt](#); [Rep Gorsek](#); [Rep Sprenger](#); [Rep Barreto](#); [Rep McKeown](#); [Rep Reardon](#); [Rep Smith D](#)
Cc: [Kornhauser Kailey](#); [Raszka Shelley](#); [Rep Helm](#); [BAKER Lindsay *ODOT](#)
Subject: HB 2834, ODOT follow up
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019 5:57:17 PM

Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources –

During today's public hearing on House Bill 2834, Representative Sprenger requested data on the wildlife-vehicle collision reduction as a result of the crossing construction on U.S. 97 at Lava Butte. Prior to the under-crossing and fencing installation, there were on average 7 wildlife-vehicle collisions a year; with the wildlife crossing features, the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions has decreased to an average of 1 per year. ODOT estimates the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions was actually likely much higher (21-35 per year) prior to the crossing installation, but that these collisions were not reported or observed by ODOT maintenance crews.

The U.S. 97 installation was required to receive USFS approval for the ODOT highway project; this area was not necessarily the highest collision density location or the location identified as having the highest likelihood of species use. ODOT sees approximately 500 wildlife-vehicle collisions a year along U.S. 97 between Bend and Klamath Falls. In the area of U.S. 97 just north of Gilchrist, where wildlife crossing features are planned for future construction, approximately 38 wildlife-vehicle collisions are reported each year.

Over a five year period, ODOT data showed 7 human fatalities, 953 serious injuries, and 2,953 property damage only collisions due to a wildlife-vehicle collision. These wildlife-vehicle collisions result in approximately \$51 million annually in costs to Oregonians (property damage, hospital bills, and similar related expenses). Based on ODOT dispatch data, there are 7,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions per year (though the number is likely higher than that, as some collisions are unreported).

We look forward to continued work on House Bill 2834 with the bill sponsors, ODFW, and other stakeholders. Please let me know if you have additional questions or would like additional data. Thanks.

Lindsay

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