

Submitter: Suzanne Linford
On Behalf Of: Protect Animal Migration
Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Measure: HB4130

Wildlife corridors are so successful at preserving wildlife and reducing the costs of animal vehicle collisions, that many countries and states in the United States have constructed them. The crossings allow animals to connect habitat where it is fragmented, and most habitat is fragmented or destroyed. The crossings vary in construction - over passes, underpasses, modified bridges, modified large culverts - and wildlife biologist determine optimum placement of a crossing after considering multiple factors for the species targeted. Although a crossing might be targeted for a mule deer like the one over Highway 97 at Sunriver, over forty species use this crossing and reduce the costs of animal vehicle collisions by 85%. When costs of animal vehicle collisions can be as high as \$9,000 for a mule deer and over twice that for an elk, an 85% reduction is a significant savings for humans and wildlife. A new paradigm shift of recognizing that all species, including humans, need to share and protect our ecosystems for the well being and survival of all species. Some of the challenges confronting the survival of wildlife are very complex and difficult to control or stop - climate change, disease, development and human disturbance that outstrips the ability of animals to adapt and survive the numerous obstacles they confront daily. Conversely, wildlife crossings are a simple solution to a big problem. Other western states have dozens of crossings, yet Oregon has only four. If we are to conserve the precious environment that we all value, wildlife crossings are one reliable solution that benefits all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Suzanne Linford, Executive Director,
Protect Animal Migration (an educational non profit, central Oregon).