



WEBINAR:

**Oh Deer!
Driving Tips to
Prevent Collisions
with Wildlife**



BC Forest Safety

Introducing today's partners



Meg Bjordal

Program
Coordinator

Wildlife Collision
Prevention Program



Dustin Meierhofer

Director,
Transportation and
Northern Safety

BC Forest Safety



BC Forest Safety

Wildlife Collision Prevention Program

- Founded in 2001 in response to the increasing number and severity of wildlife vehicle collisions in BC
- Partnership between the BC Conservation Foundation and ICBC
- Safer highways for people and wildlife
- Public awareness, collaboration



WILDLIFE COLLISION PREVENTION PROGRAM

BC Forest Safety



BC **Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

Transportation Safety

- Collaborates with industry to develop and implement actions to improve safety performance and reduce injuries and fatalities in **log hauling** sector.
- Works to improve **resource road safety**: driver training, road maintenance, radio communications, signage, etc.



ROAD SAFETY
AT WORK

Introducing today's presenters



Angelina Robinson

Client Relationship
Manager



Rick Walters

Road Safety
Manager

Overview

- Why collisions with wildlife are a BIG road safety concern
- *When* and *where* collisions tend to occur
- What **you** can do: prep, planning, strategies and practices
- Questions, answers and discussion

Significant under-reporting = incomplete data

- MoTI: 25% - 35% reported
- ICBC: <50% reported

Actual number could easily be **TWICE** what's reported



Collisions, consequences and costs

- 11,000+ each year - one every hour, every day
- 880 injured victims; 3 or 4 fatalities
- Property damage claims costs: \$55 million+
- Preventable

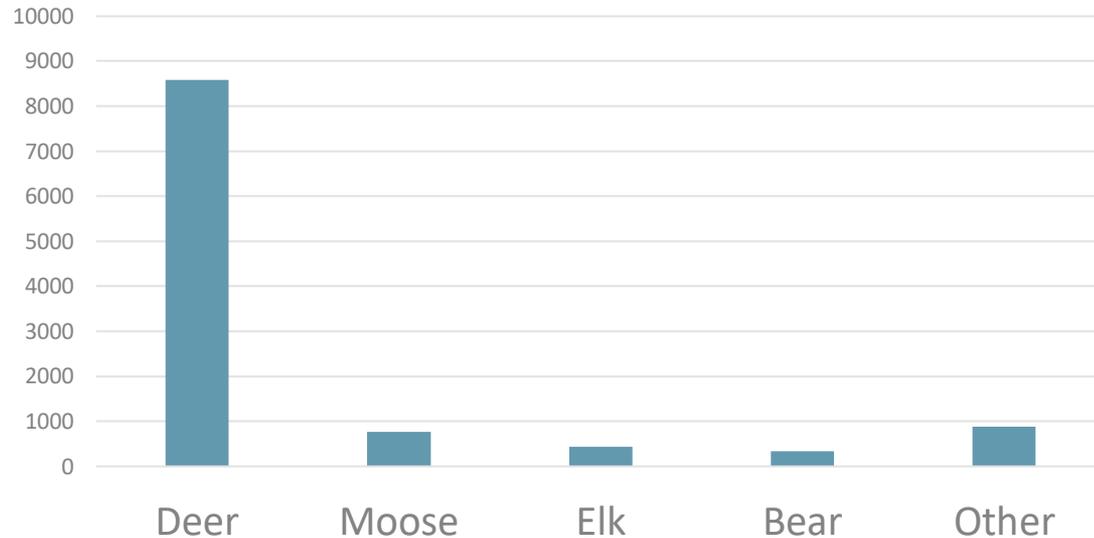


Which, when and where collisions occur

Preventing Collisions with Wildlife - Part One



Which species are involved?



Deer – 78%

Moose – 7%

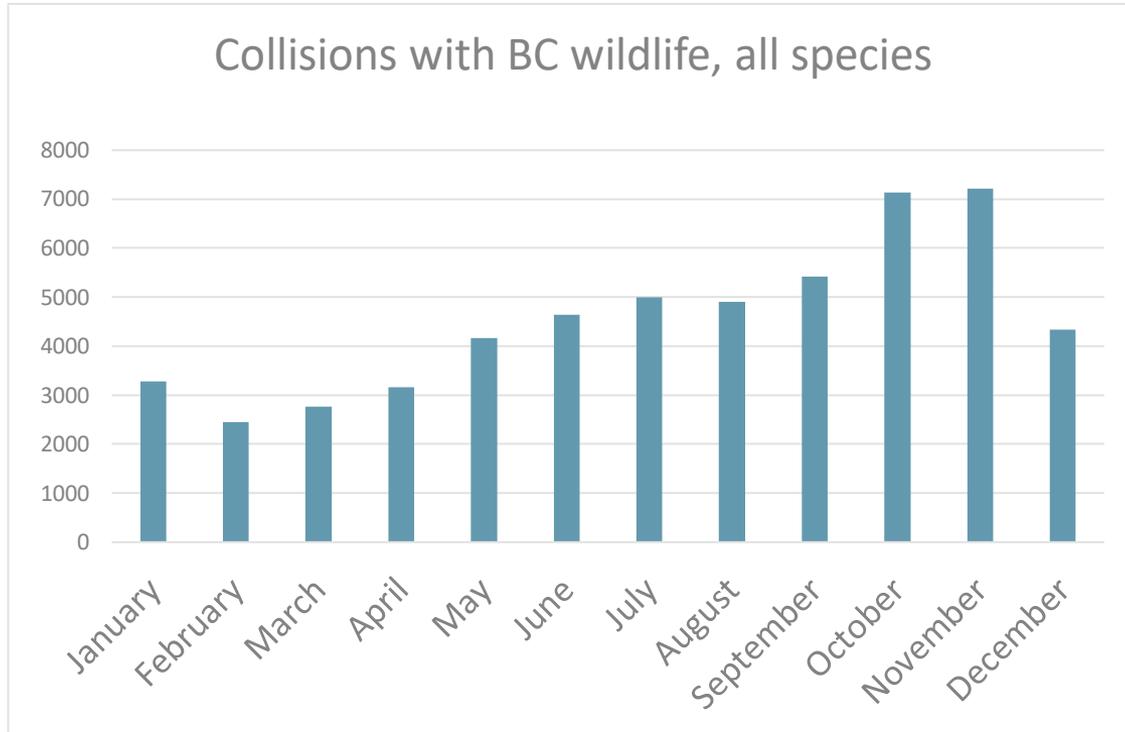
Elk – 4%

Bear – 3%

Other – 8%

Annual Average WVCs by Species in BC 2003 - 2007

Seasonal trend – all species

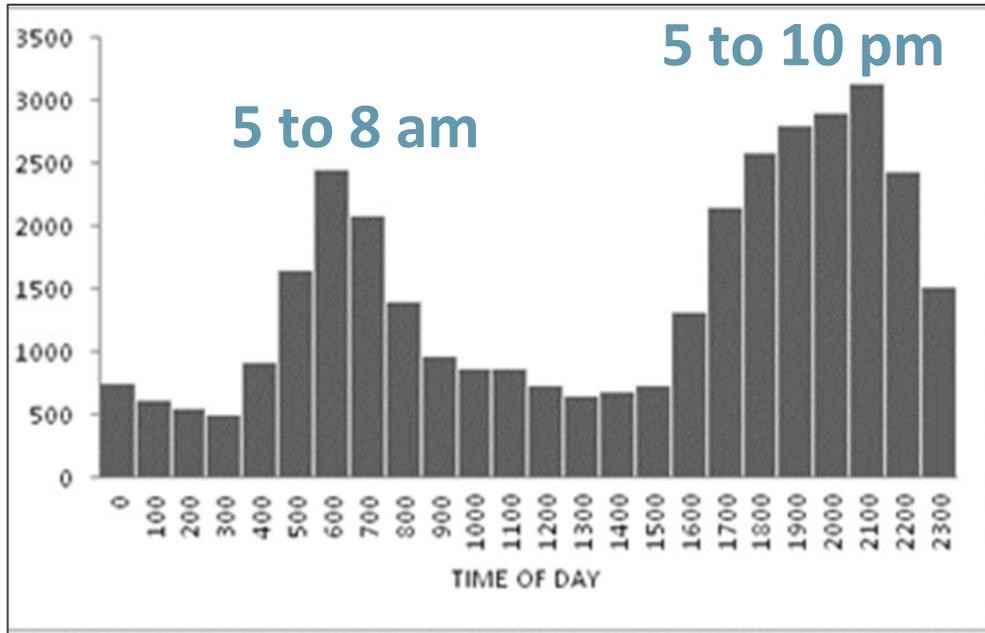


Beware:

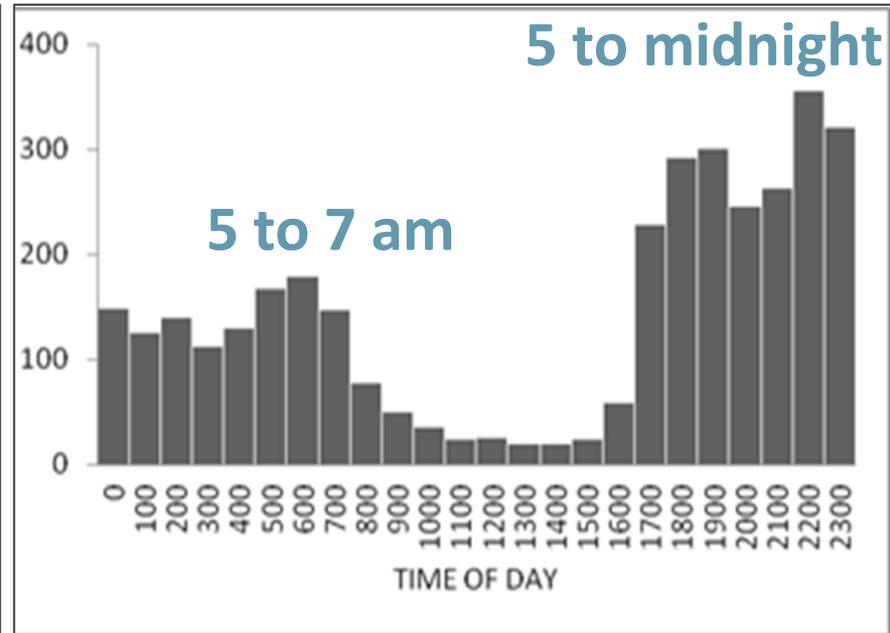
- Fall: October, November
- Spring: May, June and July

Daily collision peaks

Deer



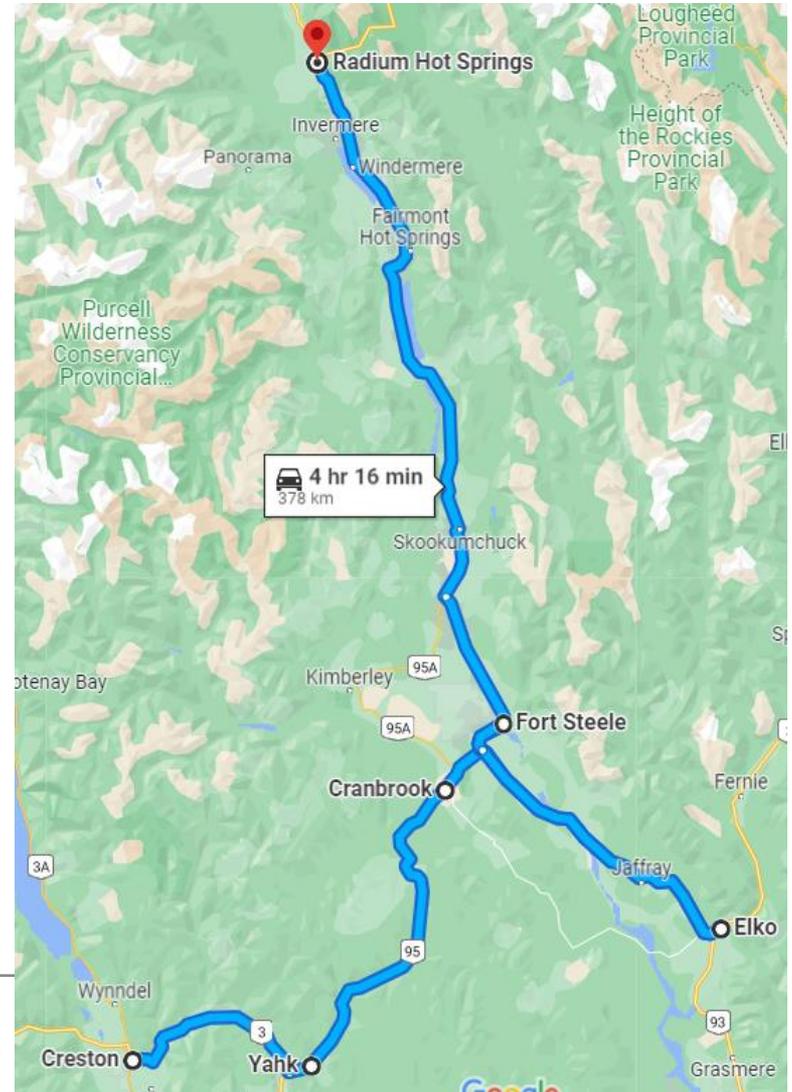
Moose



High frequency locations

Kootenays

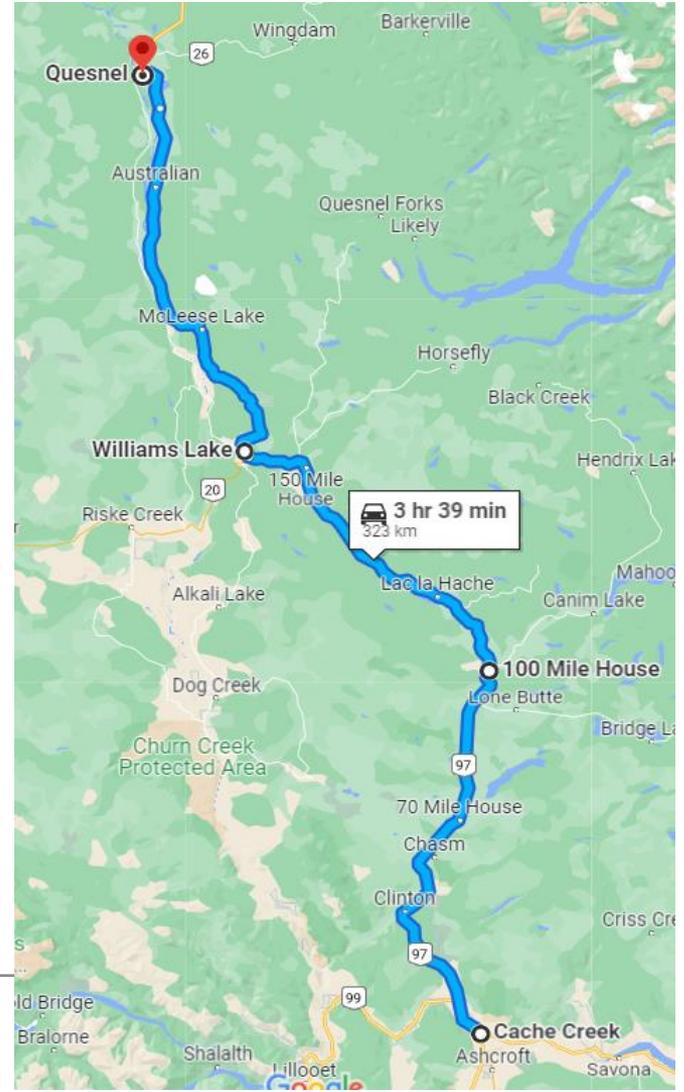
1. Fort Steele to Elko
2. Fort Steele to Radium Hot Springs
3. Creston to Cranbrook



High frequency locations

Cariboo

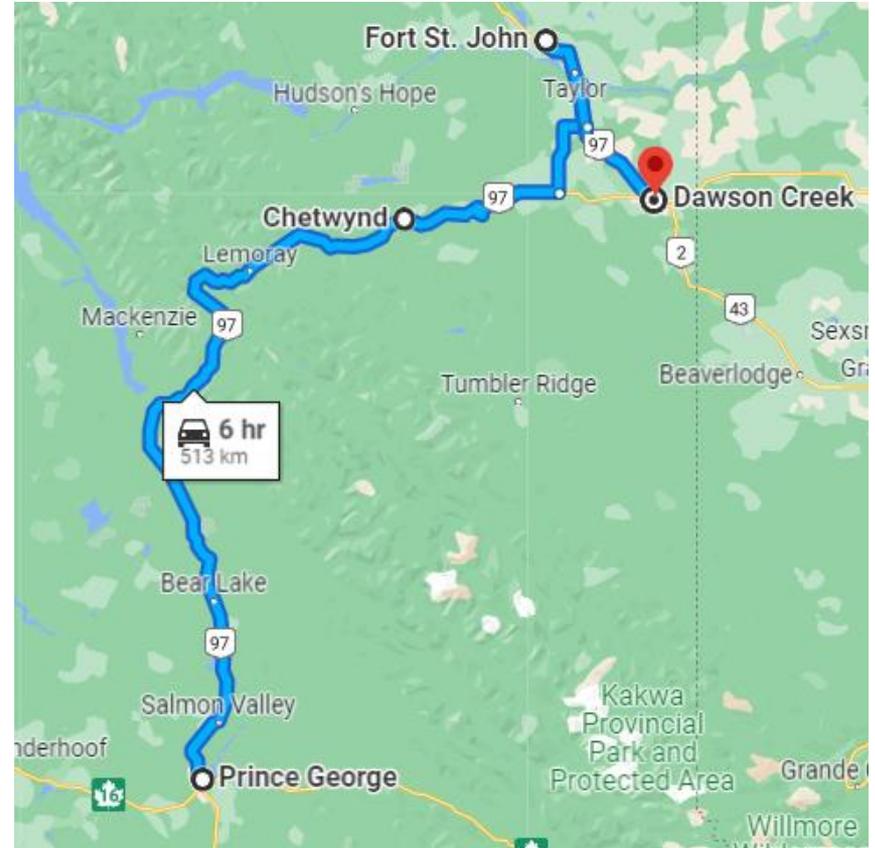
1. Williams Lake to Quesnel
2. 100 Mile House to Williams Lake
3. Cache Creek to 100 Mile House



High frequency locations

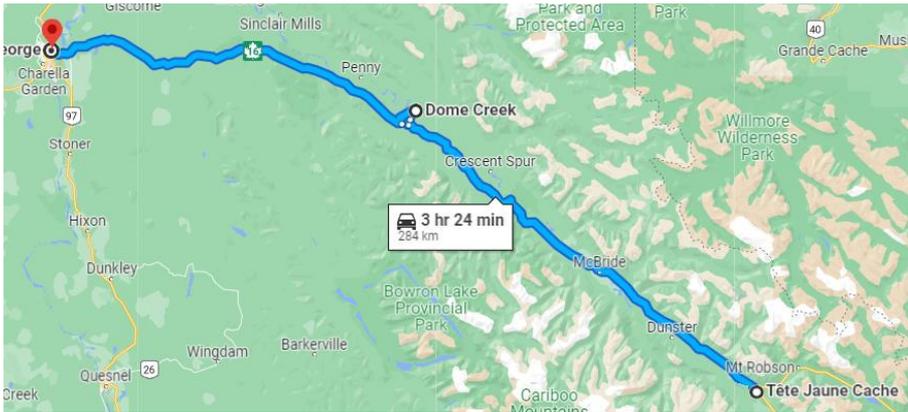
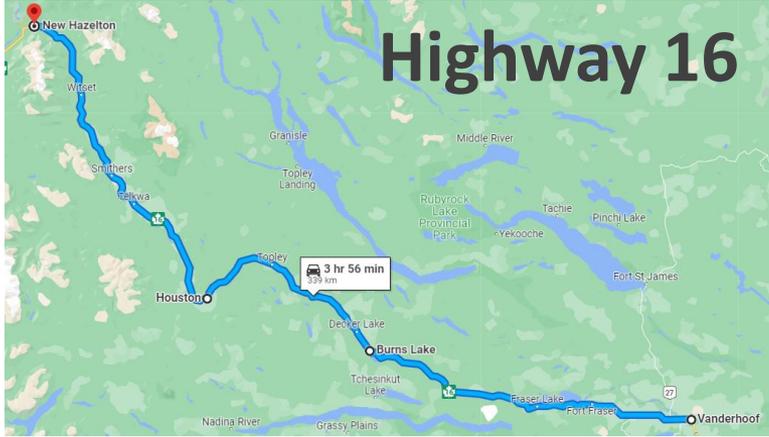
Peace - Omineca

1. Dawson Creek to Fort St John
2. Chetwynd to Dawson Creek
3. Prince George to Chetwynd

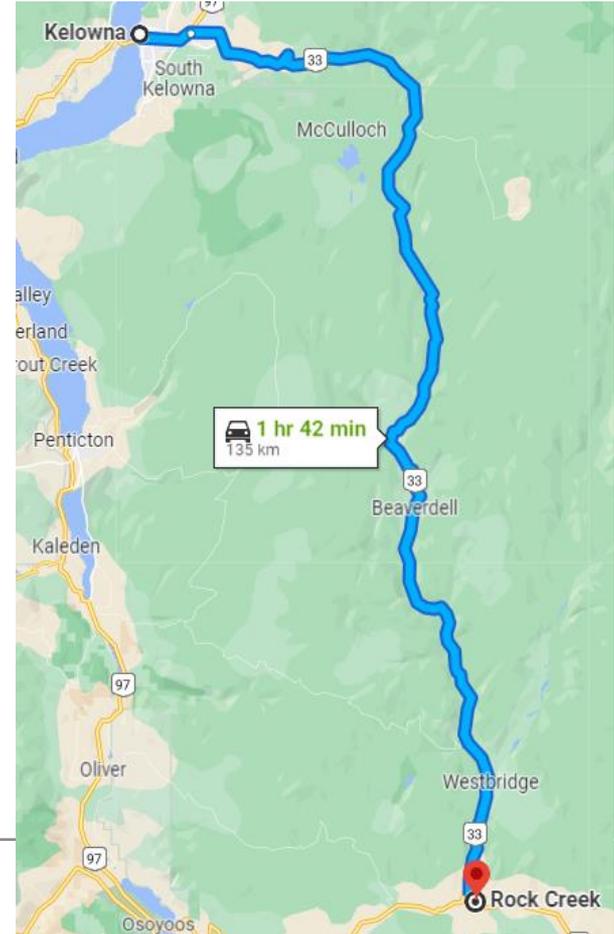


High frequency locations

Highway 16



Highway 33

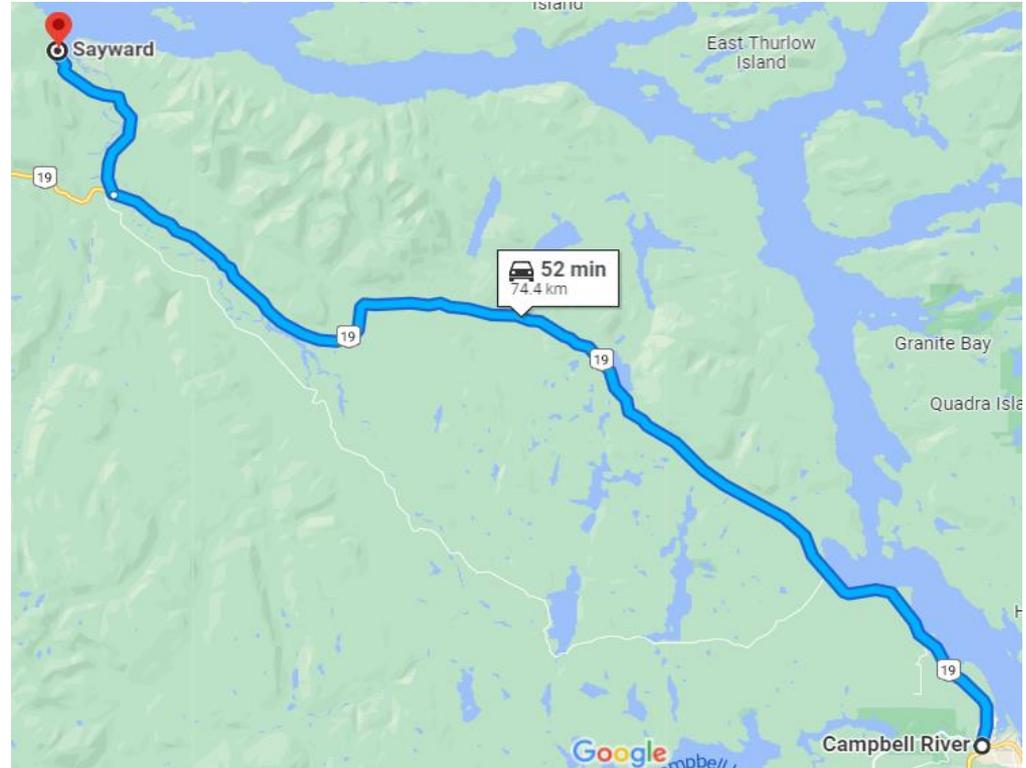


High frequency locations

Vancouver Island

Highway 19

1. Campbell River to Sayward



Where else?



Why are animals on the road, anyhow?

- Crossing to get to water, forage, habitat or mates
- Grass, shrubs greener sooner
- Road salt
- Mineral licks
- Easier travel than deep snow
- Escape predators



Questions



What can you do?



Prepare your vehicle

1. Thorough inspection – esp. brakes, steering, tires
2. Correctly adjust seat and mirrors
3. Clean your windows – inside and out
4. Lights
 - a. Confirm they ALL work
 - b. Headlights properly adjusted / aligned

Take advantage of technology – adaptive headlights



VS



Forward collision warning systems



- Promising but evolving
- Limitations in harsh road, weather conditions
- Read your owner's manual

Rear-facing light bar



Are **YOU** prepared?

- Competent, **prepared** driver is big part of success
- Get enough sleep
- Give yourself time to wake-up
- Break / snack to boost energy
- Don't forget your driving glasses



What's your plan?

- Think ahead: anticipate hazards, where and when
- Choose safest mode of travel
- Use different route to avoid high-risk locations
- Adjust schedule to avoid peak periods
- Use local knowledge



Now you're underway

- Pay attention to signs, indicators of previous incidents
- Slow down; expand active scanning area
- Increase following distance
- Use centre lane
- Rehearse *what if* scenarios



Tips for spotting wildlife



- Watch for shiny eyes
- Black holes
- Interrupted light



- Have passengers keep watch

Expect ... unpredictability

- Range of possible responses
- Don't perceive threat – no response
- Fight, flight or freeze
- Cross and re-cross the road
- Follow the leader



Get ready – the longer view: 150 – 300 metres

- Start slowing down
- Check mirrors
- Tap the brakes
- Hazard lights, flick hi-beams
- Prepare to come to a **full stop**



Get ready – the closer view

- Avoid *emergency swerve* unless larger than a deer
- Path of least resistance
- Evaluate options
- Steer behind animal



Oh deer! A crash is imminent

- Keep shedding speed
- Keep steering – glancing blow better than head-on
- Warn passengers
- Prepare yourself
- Let up on brakes



Oh no! We've hit an animal.

1. Hazard lights - warn others
2. Assess yourself, passengers
3. Safeguard the scene



Oh no! We've hit an animal.

4. Call 911
5. Conservation Officer:
1-877-952-7277
6. SPCA Provincial Call Centre:
1-855-622-7722
7. Move lifeless animal so not hazard to others



Oh no! We've hit an animal.

8. Take pictures of scene
9. Report to:
 - insurance company
 - employer, WSBC
 - maintenance contractor
10. Be ready with description / location info



Summary

- Thousands of preventable collisions each year
- Know **when** and **where** risks are greatest
- Capable, prepared vehicle
- Driver rested and ready
- Trip plan that minimizes risks



Summary

Watch for
wildlife
warning
signs.

Be
especially
vigilant at
dusk &
dawn.



Actively
watch for
wildlife.



Slow down.



Questions

Contact us



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Dustin Meierhofer



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

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Visit our websites for more tools and resources



BC Forest Safety

bcforestsafesafe.org



wildlifecollisions.ca



roadsafetyatwork.ca



Thank you

Please follow us:



Links to resources



Wildlife Collision Prevention Program

- [Safety Tips](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Wildlife Vehicle Collisions](#)
- [If a Collision Occurs](#)



Road Safety at Work

- [Avoiding Collisions with Wildlife tailgate meeting guide](#)
- [TripCheck-online trip planning tool](#)



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- [Resource Road Safety](#)
- [Resource Road Driver Training](#)
- [Log Hauling](#)



Other helpful resources

- [Wildlife Road Sharing Resource Centre](#)
- [ICBC Reported Crashes- Animal Impact-Crash Count](#)
- [ICBC Buying a Safer Vehicle Comparison Checklist](#)
- [IIHS Vehicle Crashworthiness/Crash Avoidance Ratings](#)
- [DriveBC – Report a Highway Problem](#)

