



Banff at centre of world-wide transportation initiative

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Banff wildlife caught on camera

IMAGE: 1 OF 18



Wildlife use underpasses and overpasses along the Trans-Canada Hwy., in Banff National Park. (Photo source www.highwaywilding.org)

Highlighting world-renowned animal mitigation strategies near Banff, a website has launched for biologists and transportation planners hoping to follow suit, as well as the general public.

On Wednesday, the Miistakis Institute launched highwaywilding.org in partnership with Parks Canada, the Woodcock Foundation, the Wilburforce Foundation and the Western Transportation Institute.

The website is a research platform and public education component of a five-year-partnership between the groups to study how wildlife along the Trans-Canada Hwy. in Banff National Park move.

“This is a pretty unique situation we have here in the Canadian Rockies,” said Tony Clevenger, a wildlife research biologist with the Western Transportation Institute and leader of the Highway Wilding Project.

“These mitigation measures are proven that they’re effective — they’ve become a new norm or a new standard for how to mitigate wildlife.”

Trevor Kinley, a road ecologist with Parks Canada, said efforts include 83 km of fencing, six overpasses and 38 underpasses that should all be in place by time the partnership concludes in 2013.

Parks Canada reports animals including grizzly bears, elk and cougars have used the structures more than 200,000 times since monitoring began in 1996 and says wildlife mortality has decreased by 80% in places where the structures and fencing exist.

The website showcases research, wildlife images, Google-fly-through components and webisodes by filmmaker Leanne Allison.

The online resource was created as part of a \$1 million contribution by Parks Canada to the project.

In total, more than \$1.7 million will be invested by the partners for research and monitoring plus public education work.

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