Montana Wildlife and Transportation Partnership
Steering Committee Charter

Adopted on: April 1, 2025

Purpose: The purpose of the Montana Wildlife and Transportation Steering Committee (the Committee) is to provide collaborative leadership and strategic direction on wildlife and transportation issues in Montana. Based on the support and recommendations resulting from the inaugural Montana Wildlife and Transportation Summit (December 2018), this partnership formalizes the relationships among Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), and Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage (MSWP) to provide consistency and longevity. The Committee seeks to build a foundation of resources, information, and knowledge for broad stakeholder engagement to address wildlife and transportation challenges in Montana.

Membership: Committee membership is comprised of two representatives each from MDT, FWP, and MSWP. Agency representatives are upper-level management and MSWP representatives are elected by the MSWP Steering Committee.

Scope and Authority: The scope of the Committee is all highways under MDT's jurisdiction and all species of terrestrial wildlife. The authority of the Committee is defined by USC Title 23 and MCA Title 60 for MDT, MCA Titles 23 and 87 for FWP, and endorsement by the MSWP Steering Committee. The Partnership/Committee does not have authority to endorse projects or support work on highways outside the jurisdiction of MDT.

Meeting Schedule and Communications:

- The Committee will strive to meet on a quarterly basis, or more frequently as needed.
- Meeting agendas, notes, and updates will be posted on the Montana Wildlife and Transportation webpage on the MDT website.
- When responding to media inquiries pertaining to the Partnership or the Committee, a representative from each entity must be consulted to provide a coordinated response. When responding to media inquiries pertaining to an individual entity (MDT, FWP, or MSWP) that may be of interest to or affect the other member entities, the response should be shared with the other Committee members for their information.

Processes and Decision-Making:

- The Committee will develop and revise a work plan on an annual basis. This work plan will guide the Committee to implement recommendations from the Summit. Progress will be evaluated using the agreed upon measures of success in the work plan.
- Members are expected to attend meetings. As needed, a member may appoint a proxy to attend in their stead – this should be the exception and not the rule.
- A quorum is determined by at least one member or proxy from each partner entity.
- The Planning and Implementation Team (PIT Crew) will provide staff support to organize meetings and coordinate tasks.
- Decision-making will be consensus based. Consensus means that all members support the decision or agree not to oppose the decision. The Committee will designate sufficient time for review and final decision for matters requiring additional agency/organizational review or approval.
- The Committee members will review this charter and Committee membership for needed amendments every five (5) years. Amendments to this charter or Committee membership may be proposed by any Committee member at any time and shall become effective upon agreement by all Committee members.