MONTANA WILDLIFE AND TRANSPORTATION

DATA AND INFORMATION WORKGROUP
9:00 – 10:30am, September 24, 2020
Meeting Notes

Purpose: To revise the mission, product, criteria document

Objectives:

- Revise and determine next steps for the mission, product, and criteria
- Fill in content for a work plan and decide what to accomplish by next workgroup meeting

Attendees:

- D&I Work Group: Paul Sturm (MDT), Brian Andersen MDT), Liz Fairbank (MSWP), Andrew Jakes (MSWP), Justin Gude (FWP)
- Planning and Implementation Team (PIT Crew): Renee Lemon (FWP), Deb Wambach (MDT), Nick Clarke (MSWP), Hannah Jaicks (MSWP)

Agenda:

1. **Introduction**

2. **Mission, product, criteria document**
    a. Liz, Andrew, and Paul walked the rest of the workgroup members through changes made by them after last meeting. In general, these items covered:
        - Removal of sensitive language (e.g. prioritization)
        - Focus on *Needs Assessment* in two parts: wildlife accommodations and data collection
        - Clarified and abridged the mission statement
        - Refined the target product to reflect the changes above and comments received from the steering committee
        - Further explored the graphical representation of the phases of the D&I group work, including the further identification of a phased approach to D&I work and use of the products by end-users and decision-makers
        - Keep language fairly general in this document to allow flexibility as the process evolves (e.g. single map or multiple maps or story map)
        - Define primary and secondary considerations
        - Criterion weights will be fleshed out later
        - There were a few steering committee comments that were tracked but not incorporated at this point
        - Level of access or data sharing with the general public, steering committee, agency staff still to be determined

    After some discussion, there was general agreement and group approval on the revisions made to the mission and target product

    b. Group discussed remaining issues on the document, focusing on the implementation criteria and data needs

- Inclusion of wildlife mortality as a criteria or as a data input informing other criteria was discussed. Ultimately it was decided that wildlife mortality is more of a data input than a criteria in-and-of-itself, and will support several of the wildlife accommodation criteria.
- Property damage was added as a criteria which may not otherwise be captured under human safety (related to collision data and injuries or fatalities)
- All the data sets are interrelated and will likely be a factor in multiple criteria
- Data needs can not readily be determined now and will emerge through the process of data identification and preliminary mapping. Data needs can be identified at a later date as they become more clear.
- Focus initial efforts on identifying which data are needed or useful or desired to inform wildlife and transportation decisions

3. Meeting Logistics

a. Next workgroup meeting is October 22

4. Review and Close

5. Work plan

a. Liz provided a draft work plan template via email but presentation and discussion were tabled due to lack of time

b. Items to consider for work plan are:
   - What are the major tasks?
   - Who will do which tasks?
   - What is the timeline?
   - What could be done by the next Data and Information Workgroup meeting?
   - What would the workgroup like to have done by the steering committee's next meeting on November 17?
   - Outcome: Continue filling in a work plan

ACTION ITEMS:

- Andrew to make revisions to document based on today's meeting and send out to D&I members for review and final edits
- D&I group members to get final edits and comments back to Andrew by 9/30
- Prepare and provide PIT Crew the final draft for coordination of SC review prior to next D&I meeting (scheduled 10/22)
- Brainstorm what data sets could inform and how they could inform each criterion
- Begin to identify some data gaps based on the brainstorming exercise