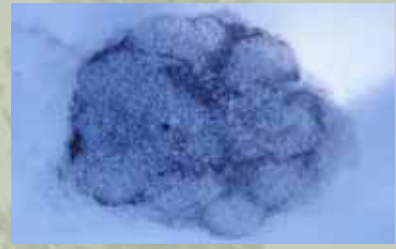


Wildlife Roadkill Identification Guide

2008 Edition



Ministry of Transportation
Engineering Branch
Environmental Management Section

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Wildlife Roadkill Identification Guide 2008 Edition

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Abstract: The British Columbia Ministry of Transportation (BCMOT) has been monitoring motor vehicle-related wildlife mortality with its Wildlife Accident Reporting System (WARS) since the late 1970's. Detailed species information on "roadkilled" wildlife found on Provincial highways is collected on a daily basis and entered into the Ministry's WARS database.

This guide provides species-specific information on wildlife typically found on British Columbia highways to assist those identifying carcasses for WARS reporting purposes. The guide provides a general description of the physical appearance, life stages, numerical abundance and geographic distribution of each animal. Where identification of a wild animal is difficult because of the condition of its remains, more accurate reporting may be possible by observing identifiable physical characteristics, such as colour, size and footprint pattern, and cross referencing these details with typical seasonal periods of activity and known mapped habitat locations near Provincial highways.

Comments: This guide was developed to provide general, introductory information to help operational staff and private maintenance contractors of the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation identify those species of wildlife involved in wildlife-related motor vehicle collisions on Provincial highways. Improved accuracy in species identification will help support the Ministry's decision making process for wildlife accident reduction initiatives, ranging from species-specific wildlife warning signs to wildlife exclusion systems.

Keywords: Wildlife, Roadkill, Identification, Guide, British Columbia, North American Badger, Black Bear, Grizzly Bear, Bison, Woodland Caribou, Cougar, Coyote, Mule Deer, Black-tailed Deer, White-tailed Deer, Roosevelt Elk, Rocky Mountain Elk, Alaskan Moose, Northwestern Moose, Shiras Moose, Porcupine, Bighorn Sheep, Wolf

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