

*News Release/Events*

*For Immediate Release: Oct. 9, 2008*

## **Critter Crossings in Paradise: Creating Wildlife Connections Across Teton-Area Highways**

Two related events next week will place the spotlight on regional efforts to incorporate wildlife connectivity and safe passages in Teton-area highway construction.

“Critter Crossings in Paradise: Creating Wildlife Connections Across Teton Area Highways” will include a brown bag lunch on Wednesday and a field trip on Thursday. The separate events are aimed at providing an overview of the constructed, planned, and considered wildlife crossing structures in the Togwotee Highway corridor reconstruction projects; a project that will rebuild over 37 miles of highway.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation set up a separate wildlife crossing analysis team that not only is evaluating potential wildlife crossing sites, but also designed and beta-tested the analysis methodology to arrive at a process that would evaluate and justify crossings. The analysis team consists of staff from WYDOT engineering, WYDOT environmental services, Wyoming Game & Fish, Shoshone National Forest and the USFS/WYDOT Liaison.

Both “Critter Crossing” events are free and open to the public.

The brown bag informational lunch is being hosted by the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at noon at the nonprofit’s conference room, 685 S. Cache Street. Bring a brown bag lunch; they’ll provide beverages and dessert.

On Thursday, Oct. 16, the field trip will allow Forest Service, WYDOT and Game and Fish project team members to reveal their on-the-ground efforts, with a tour to the Togwotee Pass highway reconstruction project and in the Hoback Canyon. The brown bag tour will begin at 9 a.m. and last about 6 hours. Space is limited.

For questions or to RSVP: Call Louise Lasley at the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance (733-9417), or Darin Martens at the Forest Service/WYDOT (739-5522).

