

Technology in Rural Transportation



A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Animal Presence Alert

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Overall goal: | To reduce animal-vehicle collisions that can be fatal for both humans and wildlife. |
| Technical approach: | Radio collars, attached to 8 elk in the 81-member herd that live around Sequim, Washington activate flashing “Warning: Elk X-ing” signs whenever the elk are within a quarter mile of the highway. |
| Current status: | The collars and the first sign were deployed in May 2000. |
| Location / geographic scope: | Highway 101, approaching the town of Sequim, Washington. |
| Agencies involved: | Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Transportation, Sequim Police Department, several area tribal communities. |
| Cost information: | A \$75,000 federal grant is paying for the cost of collaring the elk, purchasing and installing the radio-activated signs, and for other equipment used to monitor the herd. The local Jamestown S’kallum tribe has offered to cover the cost of power to one of the signs. |
| Key contacts: | Shelly Ament, Wildlife Biologist/Project Coordinator, 360.681.4276 or Craig Bartlett, 360.902.2259 |
| Have goals been achieved? | While the system is operational, at the time of compiling this report, it is not yet known whether it will convince drivers to slow down. |
| Solution timeline: | Six more warning signs are planned for installation over summer 2000. Officials are anxious to move forward with this project due to recent completion of a bypass highway that is expected to speed up traffic even more, resulting in a higher likelihood of collisions. |



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