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Office of the President

August 5, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street S.W., Room 10200
Washington, D.C. 20590

WYDOT
Rock Springs

AUG 11 2010

Re: Wyoming Department of Transportation proposal for TIGER funding

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The National Wildlife Federation, America's largest wildlife conservation organization, urges you to fund the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) project proposed by the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

A successful partnership of over thirty members of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Campaign, which is comprised of landowners, businesses, agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and academics, concludes that roads and fences associated with residential and energy development frequently obstruct migration. Further, the resulting habitat fragmentation isolates and eventually suffocates species diversity and abundance.

A dramatic example of threats to migration is at Trapper's Point. The Trapper's Point wildlife migration bottleneck across a major US highway clogged with energy development traffic is a problem of concern of which we have been aware for many years. It was declared by the Bureau of Land Management to be an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This proposal constitutes a critical improvement to the annual migration of nationally important big game herds in Wyoming, and the Trappers Point project is extremely important for the maintenance of wildlife populations from the Teton/Yellowstone National Park areas to the Red Deserts of southwest Wyoming.

The science supporting this proposal is clear. After construction, wildlife will use overpasses and underpasses as they migrate. Wildlife mortality will be reduced. Human safety will be enhanced. Wildlife/vehicle collisions will be avoided and statistics indicate that the payback in reduced repair/hospitalization costs to drivers and the lost opportunity cost for dead wildlife will be rapid.

The National Wildlife Federation looks forward to the construction of this innovative proposal that will have shared benefits for all and will protect the treasured wildlife values of this world-renowned ecosystem. We ask that you make funding available for the TIGER proposal made by the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Schweiger
President and CEO

Inspiring
Americans
to protect
wildlife for
our children's
future.

