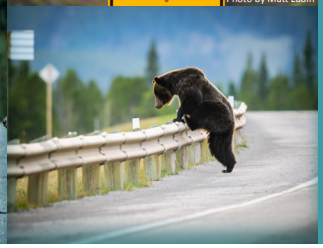


US-191/MT-64 Wildlife Crossings Project

Advancing crossings at a gateway to Yellowstone to reduce collisions and keep habitat connected

CENTER for LARGE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Historically, Montana's iconic species—such as deer, elk, and grizzlies—moved freely to and from Yellowstone National Park and adjacent habitat in expansive national forest lands. While US Highway 191 and Montana Route 64 enable vital connections for people, they also divide the natural landscape. In Gallatin County, one of the fastest growing regions in the United States, traffic volumes between Bozeman, Big Sky, and West Yellowstone are increasing. The results are wildlife-vehicle collisions and interruption of the daily and seasonal movements of many species throughout the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Ensuring that US-191 and MT-64 are safer for travelers and wildlife requires changes at multiple sites. Together, with concerted action over time, we can improve motorist safety and maintain wildlife movement.

Making Roads Safer for People and Wildlife

The US-191/MT-64 Wildlife Crossings Project is based upon an in-depth wildlife and transportation assessment conducted in partnership with Montana State University's Western Transportation Institute. The assessment identified 11 priority sites based on elevated safety risk and the need to maintain connectivity across the road for wildlife.

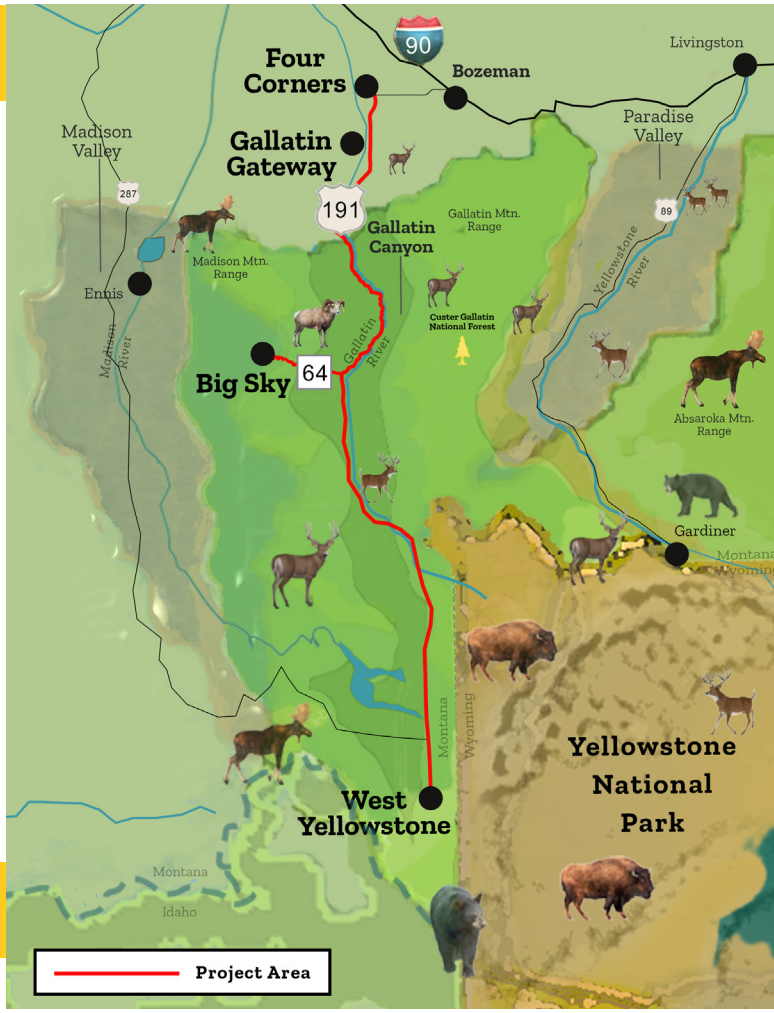
This project addresses the negative impacts of these busy roadways by:

- improving understanding of wildlife movement and safety along roadways that cut through critical habitat for wide-ranging species
- bringing communities, businesses, individuals, and agencies together to plan, fund, and implement wildlife crossings such as underpasses or overpasses
- developing solutions to benefit current and future generations of people and Montana's iconic wildlife

View the assessment report or read its Key Findings at Largelandscapes.org/191

It's Not Only About Collisions

As traffic volumes increase, so does collision risk—until a road becomes a complete barrier to wildlife passage. Traffic, noise, light pollution, and habitat alteration are among reasons wildlife may avoid roads. This can reduce their access to food, water, and mates.



Following the Gallatin River, US-191 disrupts aquatic and terrestrial connections between Yellowstone and expansive national forest lands. MT-64 (Lone Mountain Trail) is the sole route to Big Sky.

Gallatin Canyon, US-191

Why We Need Wildlife Crossings on US-191/MT-64

Residents and Visitors Depend on These Roads

- Traffic volume on US-191 between Gallatin Gateway and Big Sky increased by more than 60% from 2015 to 2025. It is now one of the busiest roads in Montana.
- Nearly 80% of Big Sky workers regularly commute along US-191 and MT-64.
- Annually, more than 1 million trips to Yellowstone National Park occur on US-191.

More Traffic is a Problem for Wildlife

- Grizzly bears may change their behavior near roads at as few as 20 vehicles/day and stop crossing altogether at 100 vehicles/day.
- More than 1,800 elk and deer were killed on US-191 (Four Corners to West Yellowstone) from 2012 to 2020.

Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions are Dangerous and Expensive

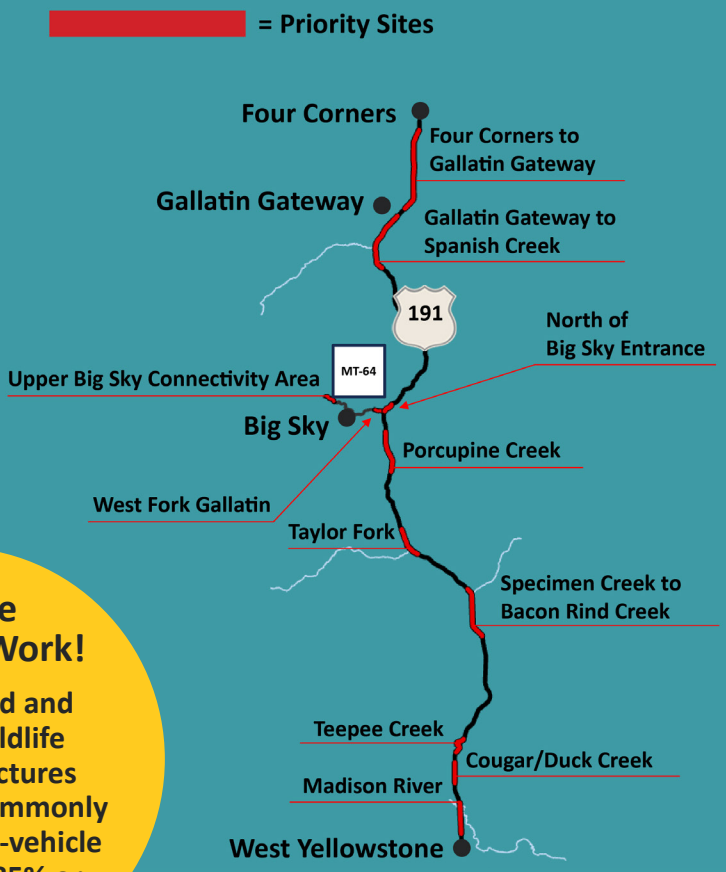
- Collisions involving wildlife make up 24% of all crashes on US-191 between Four Corners and Big Sky—more than double the statewide average and nearly five times the national average.
- The average cost of a collision is $14,000 (deer) or $45,000 (elk) in personal injury and property damage alone.

Wildlife Crossings Work!

Properly sited and designed wildlife crossing structures with fencing commonly reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by 85% or more.

11 Priority Sites

Implementing specific measures at these sites would reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and maintain wildlife movement*



*based on the findings of the US-191/MT-64 Wildlife & Transportation Assessment (2023)

Photo by Holly Pippel

More Information

For additional information on the US-191/MT-64 Wildlife Crossings Project, current status of planning and funding for wildlife crossings, and ways to get involved, visit **Largelandscapes.org/191**