# RoadWatchBC Participant Update April 2018

Way to go RoadWatchers: there are now 97 of you. Your participation has allowed us to collect 1210 wildlife sightings in the Elk Valley and South Country in less than two years. This information allows us to better understand where wildlife are commonly crossing, involved in collisions, or moving adjacent to the highway. Ultimately, this data will lead to the development of informed strategies to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions while ensuring the safe passage of wildlife across highways. Keep up the great work!



*RoadWatchBC is a citizen science program that enables the public to report on wildlife sightings in the Elk Valley and South Country regions of southeastern British Columbia. RoadWatchBC has been developed by Miistakis Institute, Wildsight and Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative and has been generously supported by Teck, The Vancouver Foundation, Patagonia and Chawkers Foundation.*

## Join RoadWatchBC!

If you would like to help with this initiative to make our highways safer for humans and wildlife alike, there are three easy ways to participate:

1. Download the smartphone app RoadWatchBC and report wildlife sightings whenever you are a passenger on the highway and see wildlife;
2. Use the app to report on your route, regardless of whether you see wildlife, and,
3. Upload your wildlife sighting retroactively using an interactive mapping tool (roadwatchbc.ca)

If you want to learn more or have technical questions, please check out the RoadWatchBC website or contact the local RoadWatchBC Coordinator:
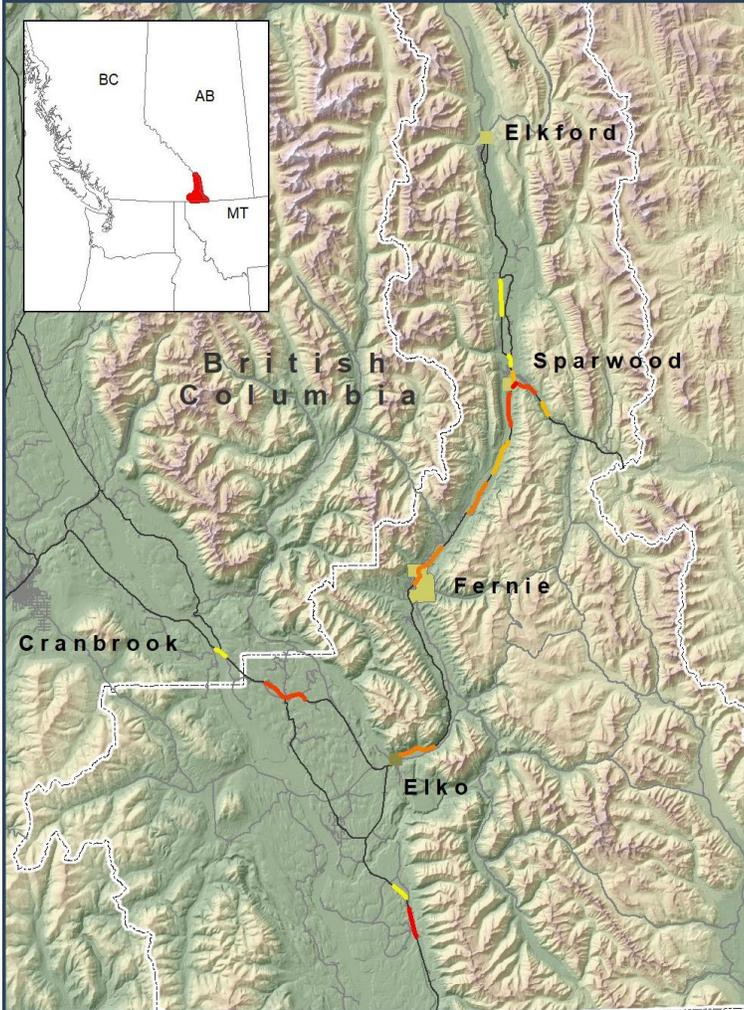
mail: info@roadwatchbc.ca

ROADWATCHBC: STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT CLUSTERS OF OBSERVATIONS

Elkford

British Columbia

Sparwood

Fernie

Cranbrook

Elko

RoadWatchBC Observations (June 2016 to Feb 2018)

Statistically significant
clusters of observations
increasing strength

0   5   10        20
Kilometres

## Number of RWBC Observations from June 2016 to February 2018

| Species | # of Observations |
|---------|-------------------|
| Deer | 596 |
| Elk | 462 |
| Sheep | 100 |
| moose | 9 |
| black bear | 7 |
| fox | 6 |
| coyote | 5 |
| unknown | 5 |
| skunk | 4 |
| beaver | 3 |
| turkey | 3 |
| wolf | 2 |
| badger | 2 |

*The above table illustrates the number of species reported two or more times by RWBC participants like you. You reported 242 observations as roadkills, 212 crossing, 709 adjacent to the highway and 47 unknown; all these sightings help us better understand areas where wildlife movement is occurring.*

*We're very excited to show you the Kernel Density Estimate+ (KDE+) mapping that we have recently applied to the data. KDE+ can determine non-random clusters of RoadWatchBC observations (including crossing, mortality and adjacent observations) reported from June 2016 to Feb 2018. Using this methodology, we can identify statistically significant clusters of observations to help determine the best locations for mitigation strategies. For example, on the above map, red lines represent the strongest cluster of observations. This map is a demonstration of methodology we will use once we have three years of RoadWatchBC data. By continuing to report wildlife with RoadWatchBC, you are helping us improve our understanding of where we should be prioritizing wildlife mitigation.*

*Did you know you can view your contributions and all RoadWatchBC observation on the project mapping tool, visit our website at roadwatchbc.ca. We will be collecting data for a total of three years, so continue to upload your wildlife sightings!*