



Prevention is Key

MDT is continually building safer and more wildlife-friendly roads. Wildlife crossings and directional fencing alone cannot eliminate animal-vehicle collisions. Rather than disposing of the animals off the highway, MDT is composting the remains at central and secure locations.

Composting facilities are safe and well-managed.

Current regulations ensure compost facilities are properly sited away from water bodies, the water table, and residential dwellings. Each compost facility is inspected by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to ensure it is properly managed.

The process is simple and effective. Covering the carcasses with wood waste each day reduces odors. A well-maintained pile will not smell. High composting temperatures in the piles also kill bacteria such as *Salmonella*, *Clostridium*, and *E. coli*.

Conflicts with foraging wildlife are quickly addressed and sites are protected with electric fencing to deter scavengers and predators.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Dept. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-7659 TTY (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711.

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Partnerships

MDT partnered with the Blackfoot Challenge to compost livestock mortalities at an MDT compost facility. This mutually beneficial partnership illustrates how agencies and private citizens can work together to reduce predator attractants, save money, and promote environmental stewardship.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Cornell Waste Management Institute
<http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/>

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
<http://www.deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste>

Penn State Extension
<http://extension.psu.edu/animal-composting>

Montana Department of Transportation
http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/docs/manuals/roadkill_composting.pdf



Keep Taxpayer Costs Down
Composting reduces haul costs and tipping fees to landfills.

Beneficial Use
Keeping animal remains out of landfills and creating a usable product for re-vegetation.



Promote Wildlife Migration & Increase Safety
Eliminating animal remains reduces attractants on ranches and roadsides for wolves and bears.



Montana Department of Transportation

Animal Composting

PROMOTING SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



MONTANA
MDT ★
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Services Bureau
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