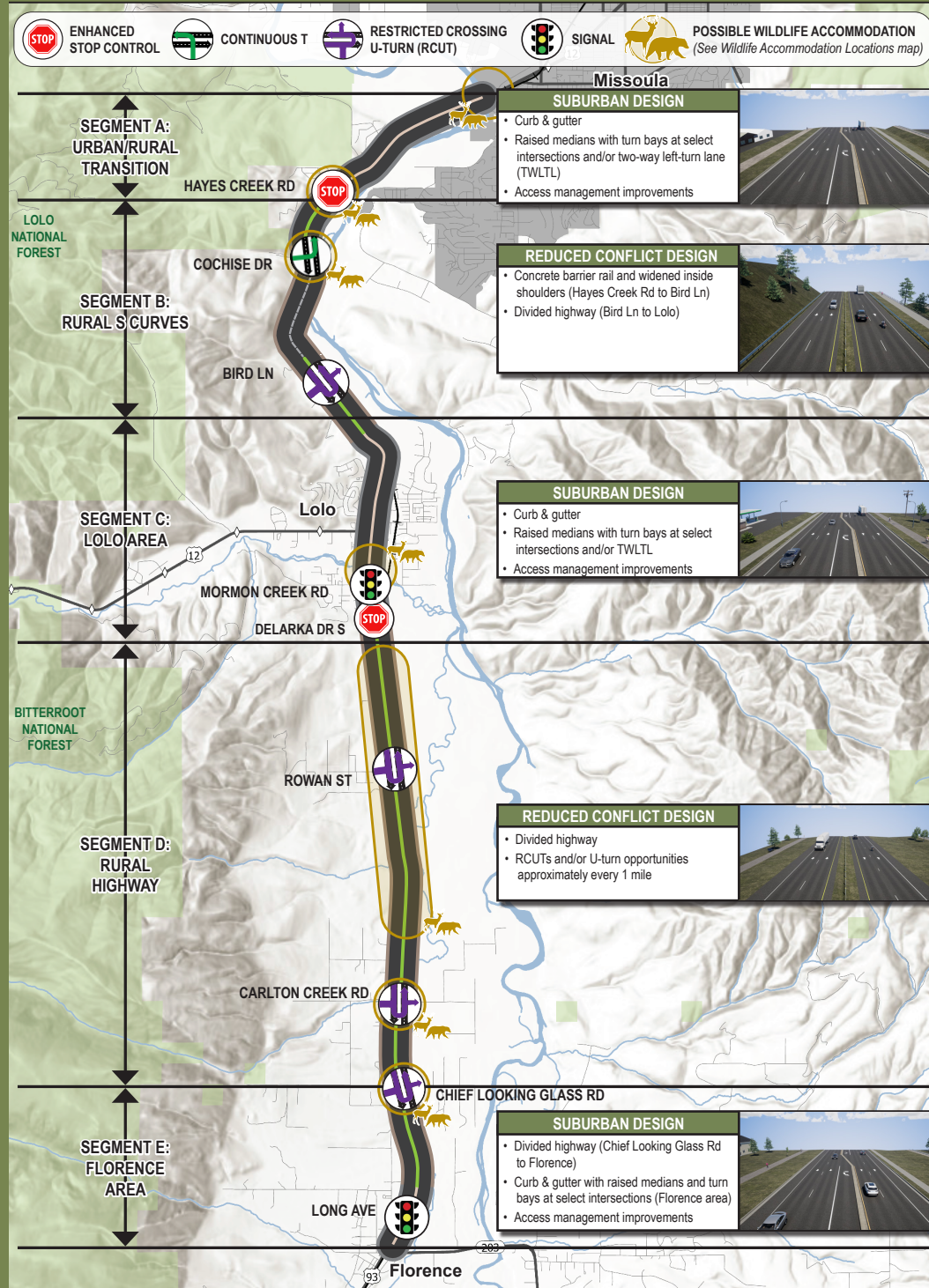


Proposed Study Recommendations



Study Background

MDT has conducted a corridor study of US Highway 93 (US 93) beginning in Ravalli County just north of Old US Highway 93 in Florence, crossing into Missoula County at Chief Looking Glass Road, and extending north to the Bitterroot River crossing, outside of Missoula.

The study corridor is used by commuters, residents, and regional travelers as well as commercial freight haulers. The highway provides access to adjacent residences, businesses, agricultural lands, and serves as a primary route between smaller Bitterroot Valley communities and the City of Missoula. Traffic volumes have outpaced projections as the area has continued to develop. This pressure has contributed to congestion, reduced travel times, increased user conflicts, and ongoing safety concerns, especially at uncontrolled intersections within the corridor and during peak travel times.

The intent of the US 93 Missoula-Florence Study is to evaluate **safety and operational conditions** within the corridor and identify comprehensive, data-driven, and forward-looking solutions to address concerns over the long term given environmental resources, right-of-way needs, access control, maintenance considerations, and other potential constraints.

- **Initial study recommendations will be presented at open house meetings in January 2025.**
- Following the meetings, the **draft study report will be posted to the study website for public review in February-March 2025.** All public comments will be considered before the study is finalized.

No funding for corridor improvements has been identified at this time. After the study is finalized, MDT and partner agencies will seek potential funding to implement short-term and long-term corridor improvements. MDT may advance identified improvements for future design and construction as funding becomes available.

Questions and Comments

To sign up for study updates and receive an announcement when the draft report is available, contact:

Becca MacLean, Communications Manager | Big Sky Public Relations

CALL: 406-207-4484

EMAIL: becca@bigskypublicrelations.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/us93missoulaflorence/>

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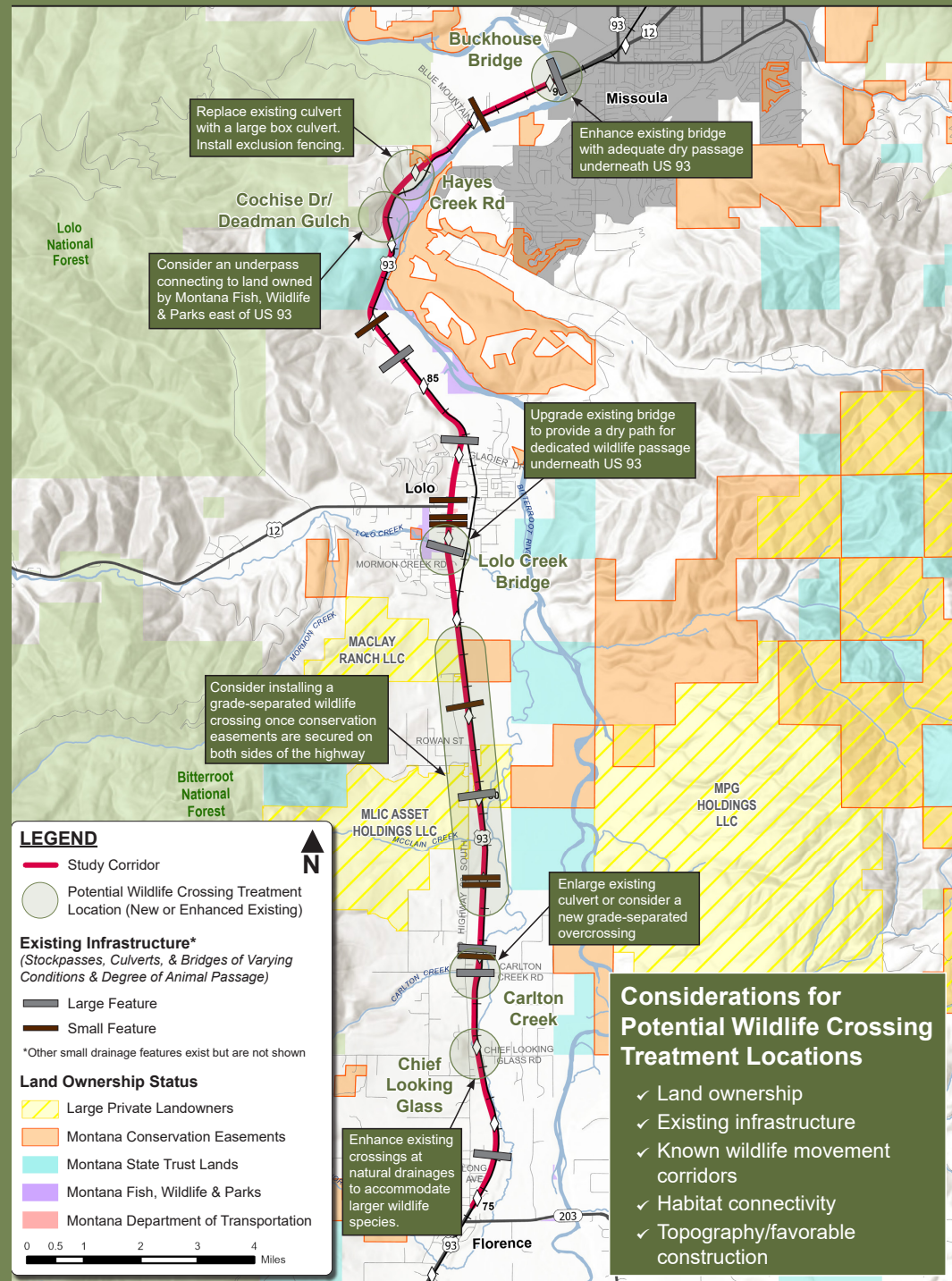
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US 93: Missoula to Florence Corridor Study

January 2025



Wildlife Accommodation Locations



Wildlife Accommodation FAQs

What work was done for the study to evaluate wildlife needs in the corridor?

- The study evaluated **wild animal crashes** and **carcass data** and developed a *Baseline Biological Conditions Report* detailing **species present** in the corridor and **potential wildlife accommodations**.
- The study team held multiple **meetings with resource agencies**, including the **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** and **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)**.

Did the study identify specific locations for wildlife accommodations?

- The study has identified **potentially promising locations for wildlife accommodations** at the **Buckhouse Bridge**, **Hayes Creek Road**, **Cochise Drive/Deadman Gulch**, **Lolo Creek Bridge**, **south of Lolo** and **north of Carlton Creek**, **Carlton Creek Road**, and **Chief Looking Glass Road**.
- Specific locations depend on multiple factors, including **known wildlife activity**, **topography**, and **public land ownership or conservation easements**.

Did the study identify specific wildlife accommodation treatments?

- The study identified a **range of potential wildlife accommodations and management strategies** suitable in the corridor to minimize wildlife-vehicle conflicts. These include **vegetation management**, **signage and detection**, **new grade-separated crossing structures** (including underpasses or overpasses), **modifications to existing bridges/culverts**, **appropriate wildlife fencing**, and more.

What are the next steps for a wildlife accommodation project?

- Ongoing collaboration with resource agencies, landowners, non-governmental organizations, and other partners will be important to negotiate potential **conservation easements**, confirm **viable wildlife crossing locations**, **design suitable accommodations**, secure appropriate funding, and ensure the **long-term success** of these projects.

What funding is available for wildlife accommodations?

Multiple funding sources are available to support wildlife accommodations in the corridor.

- Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Core Funding:** MDT considers wildlife accommodations as part of its highway improvement projects using core funding programs for National Highway System routes. No specific funding has been identified for a dedicated MDT project in the corridor.
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP):** Wildlife-vehicle conflict areas, especially where severe and fatal crashes involving wildlife are common, may qualify for HSIP funding
- Montana Wildlife & Transportation Partnership (MWTP):** Projects may also proceed through the MWTP, involving collaboration with MDT, MFWP, and Montanans for Safe Wildlife Passage (MSWP). The Partnership accepts applications for wildlife accommodations in May and November each year from members of the public, non-profit and non-governmental organizations, public agencies, local governments, community groups, and tribal governments. This option requires a non-MDT champion to coordinate with appropriate entities, determine available funding sources, and submit an application.
- Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP):** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law obligated funding to various programs through 2026, including the WCPP, which is designed to fund wildlife crossing projects nationwide. Eligible applicants include federal land management agencies, local governments, regional transportation authorities, special purpose districts, tribes, and state transportation departments. MDT encourages local entities to pursue these funding opportunities and is committed to being an engaged partner in the application process. *The application period for the final round of funding will open on May 1, 2025, and close on August 1, 2025.*
- Other Partnerships:** In addition to public funding sources, collaborations with non-profit organizations focused on wildlife conservation could play an important role in funding wildlife accommodation projects.