

# Community Highway Safety Forum

MT 87/US 287 – Idaho to I-90



Director Jim Lynch  
Montana Department  
of Transportation

November 16, 2009  
Ennis, Montana



# Overview

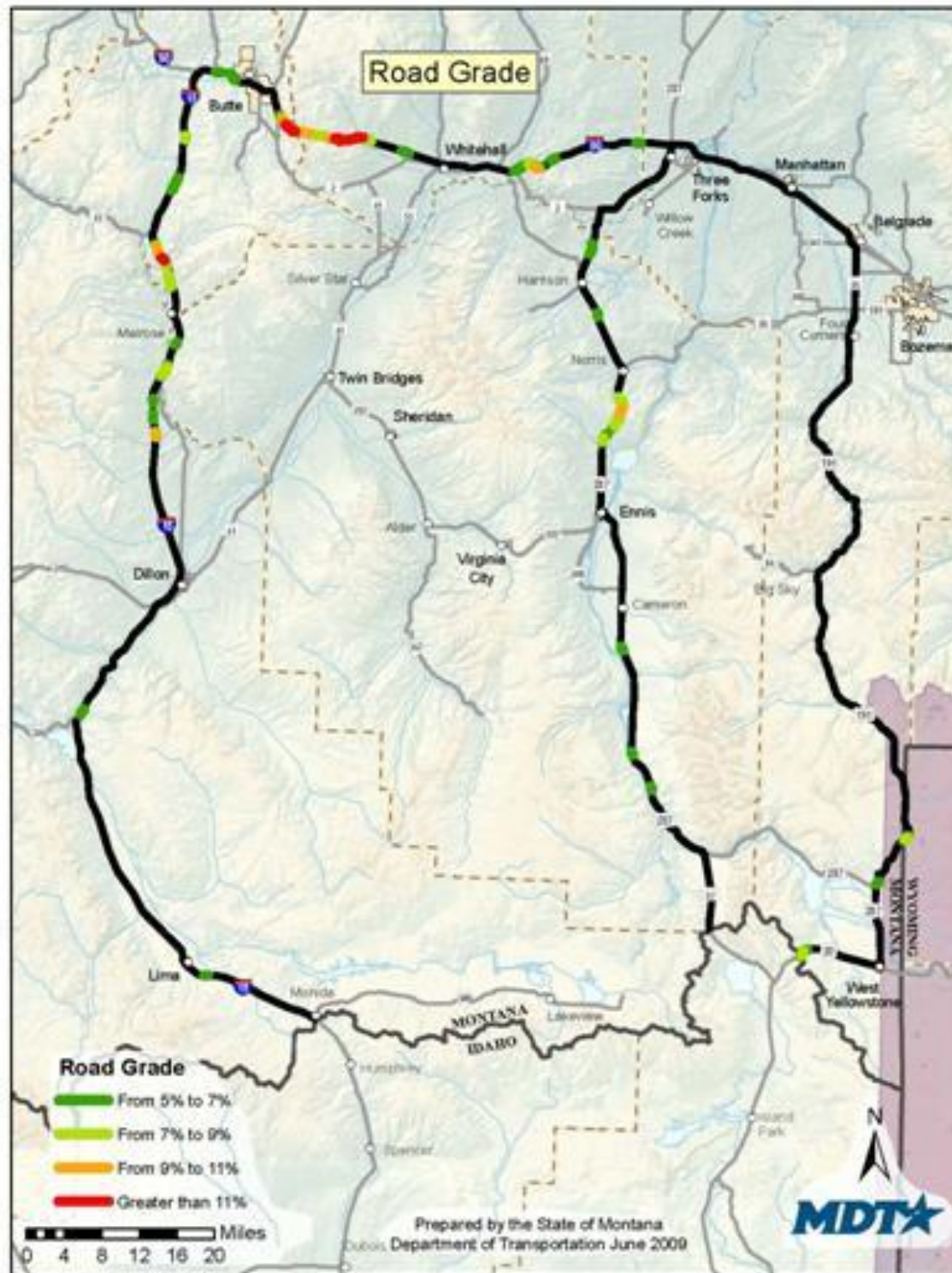
- Geography & Corridors
- Truck Traffic & Crash Characteristics
- Clarification of Information Presented
- Future Considerations

## **US 287 Corridor**

- **US 287** – (From Raynolds Pass via MT 87 and US 287 to west Three Forks interchange-exit 274).
  - Corridor length in Montana: 97 miles.
  - Length from Idaho Falls: 200 miles.

## **Other Corridor Comparisons**

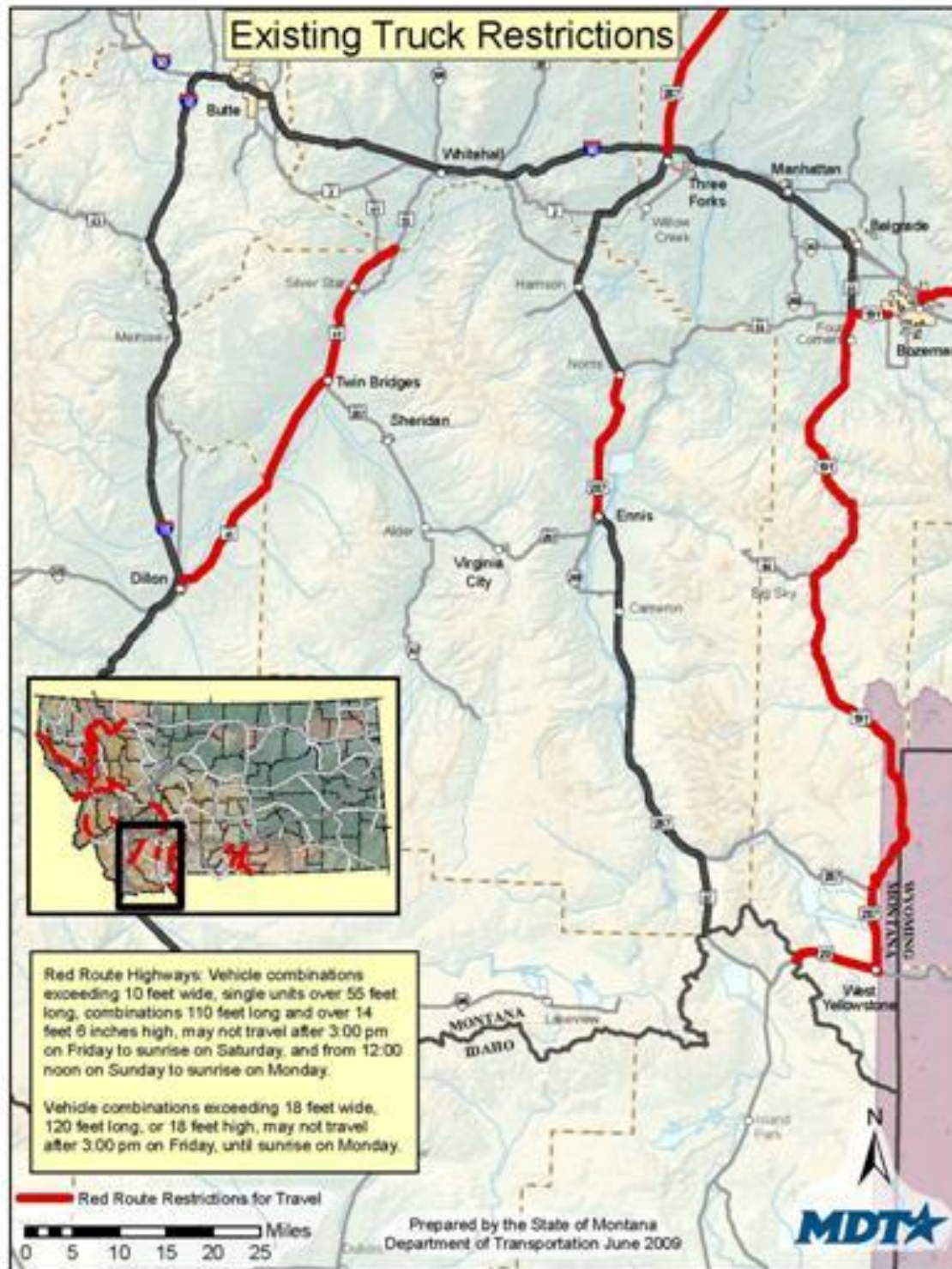
- **I-15** – (From Monida Pass via I-15 and I-90 to west Three Forks interchange-exit 274).
  - Corridor length in Montana: 176 miles.
  - Length from Idaho Falls: 264 miles.
- **US 191** – (*From Targhee Pass via US 20, US 191, MT 85, to west Three Forks interchange-exit 274*).
  - *Corridor length in Montana: 128 miles.*
  - *Length from Idaho Falls: 227 miles.*



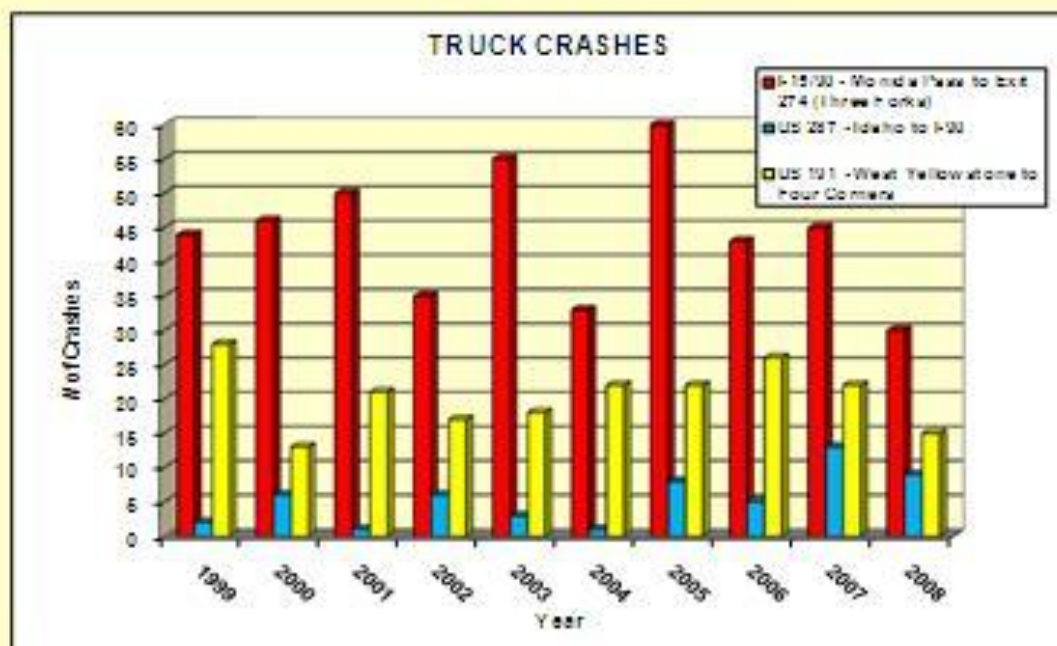
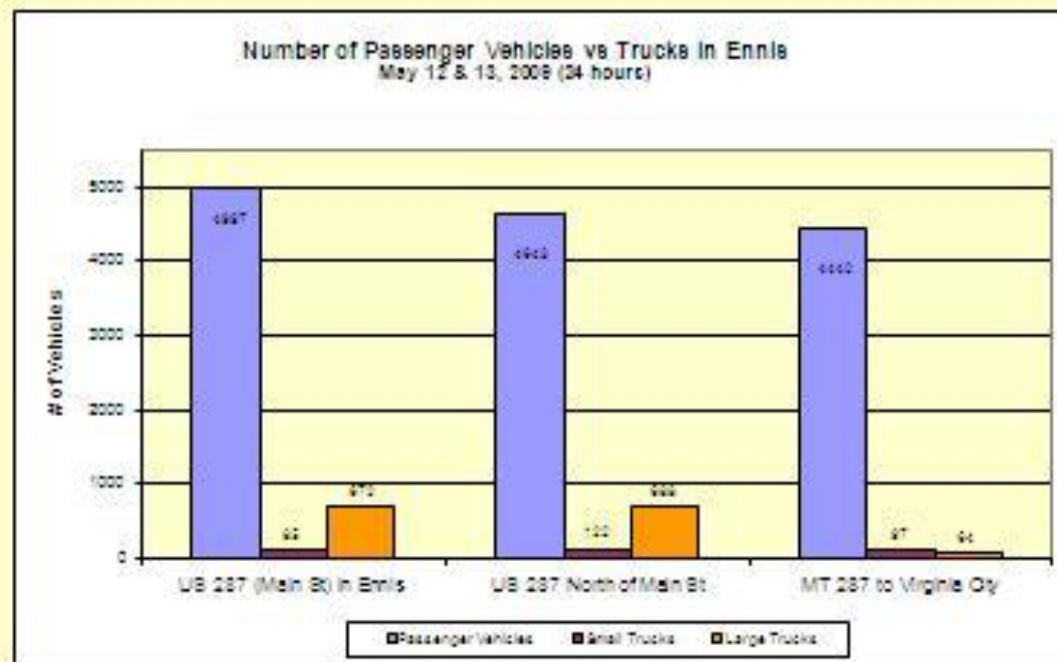


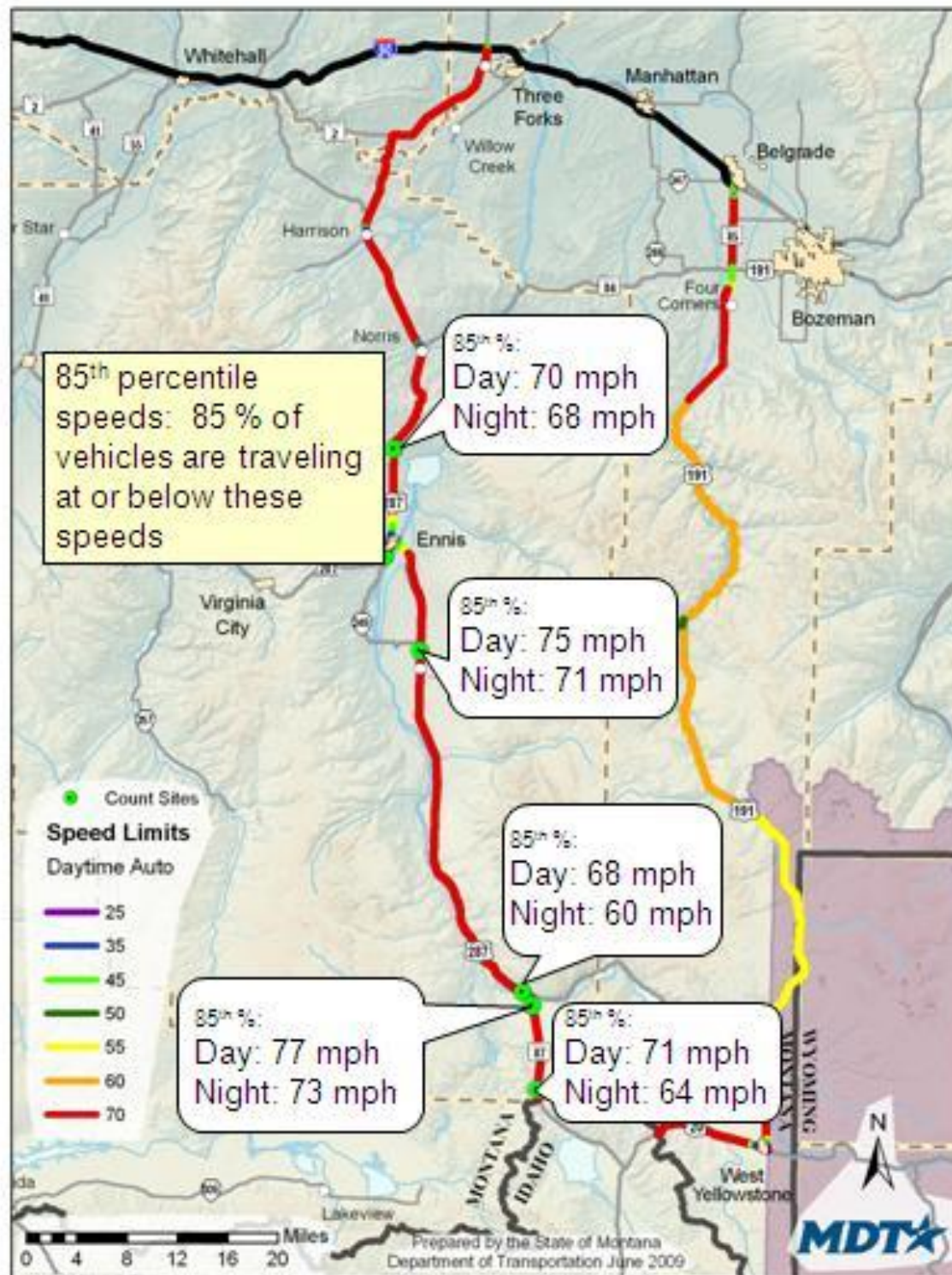


# Existing Truck Restrictions

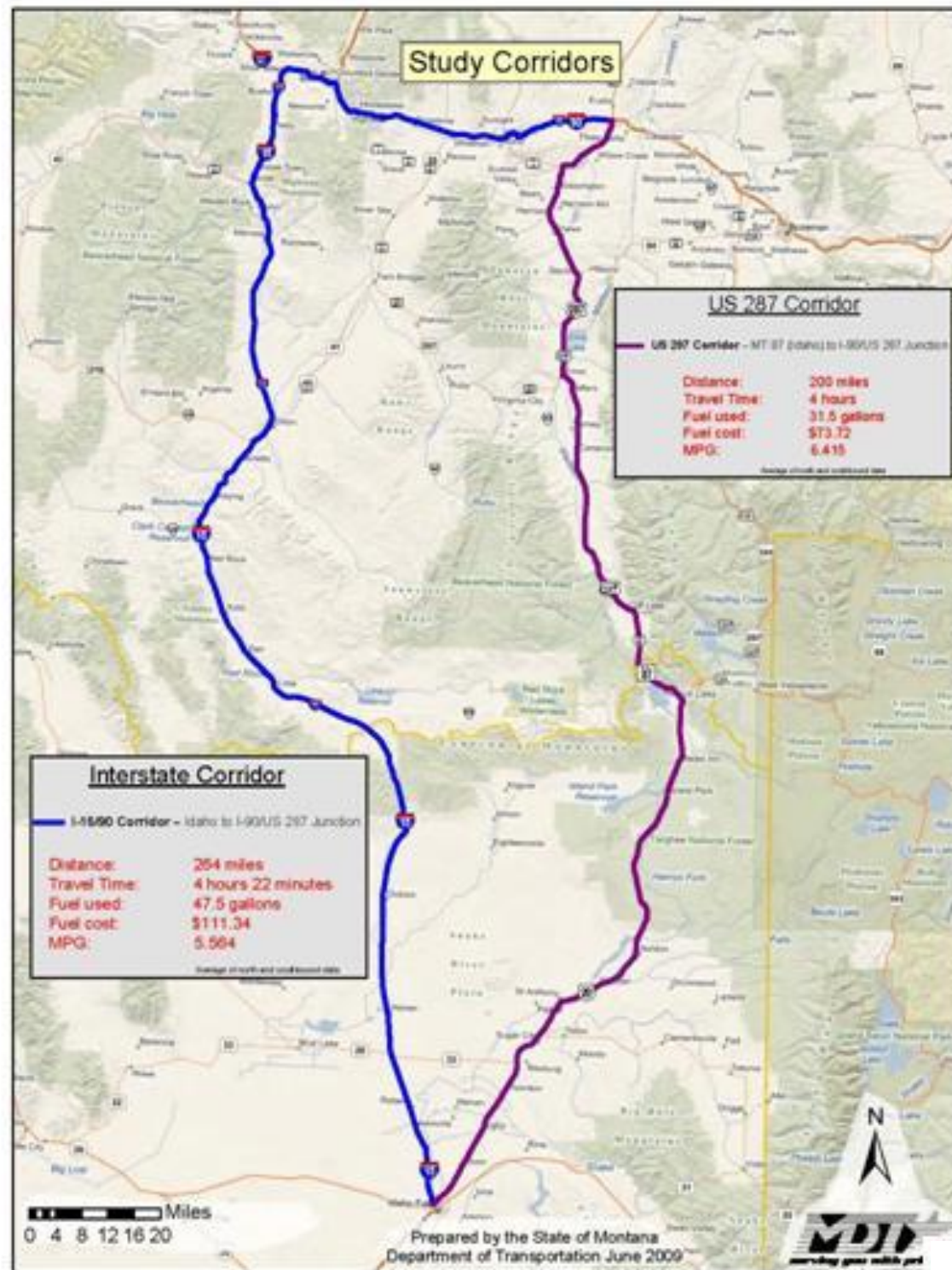


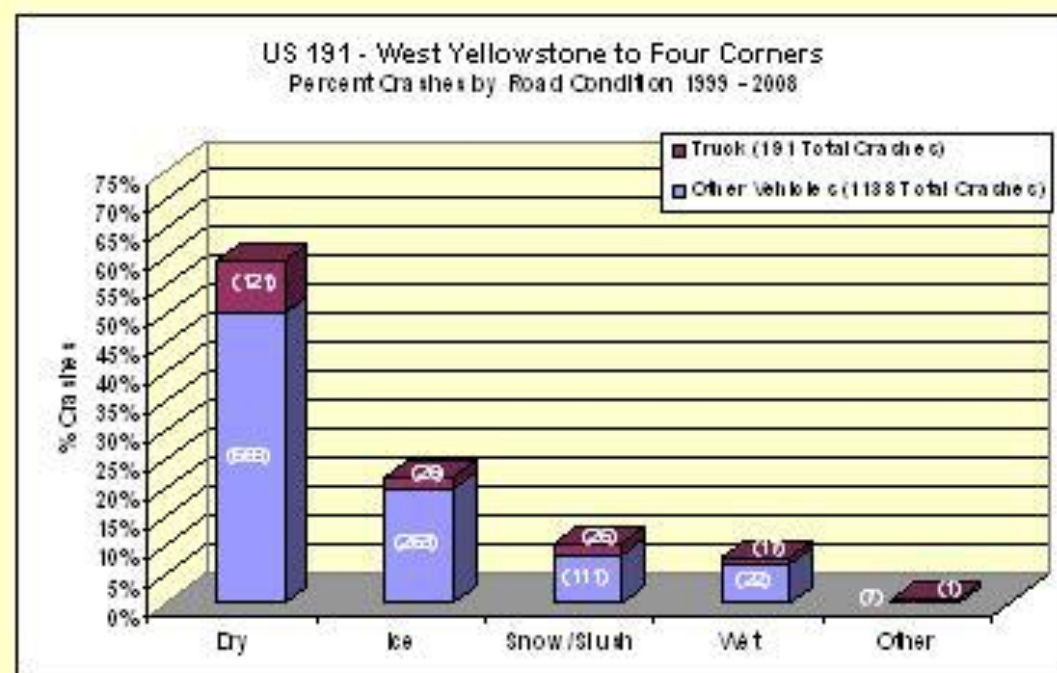
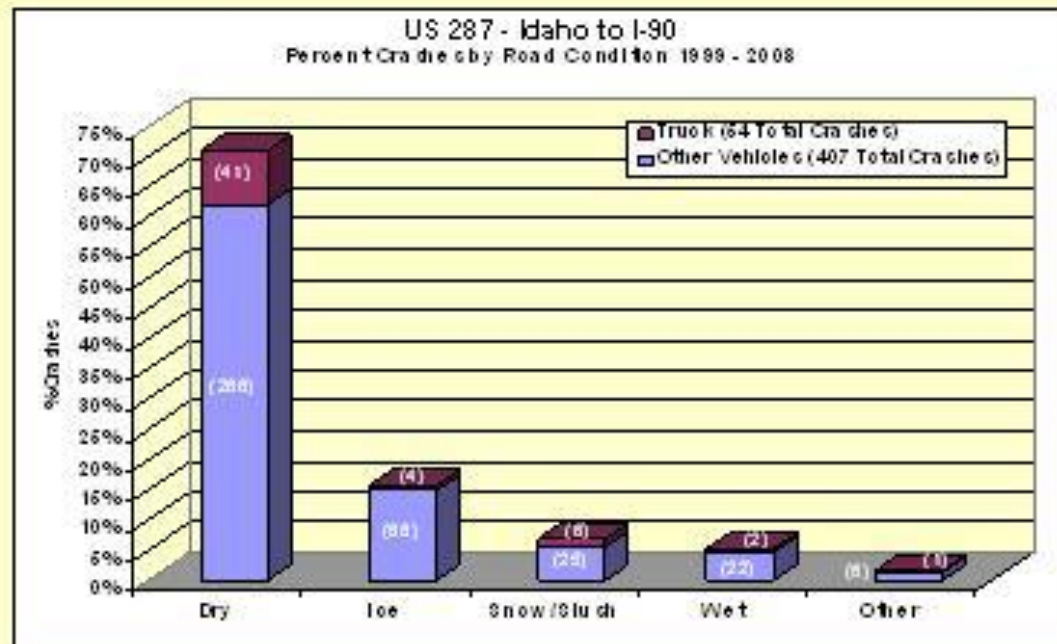


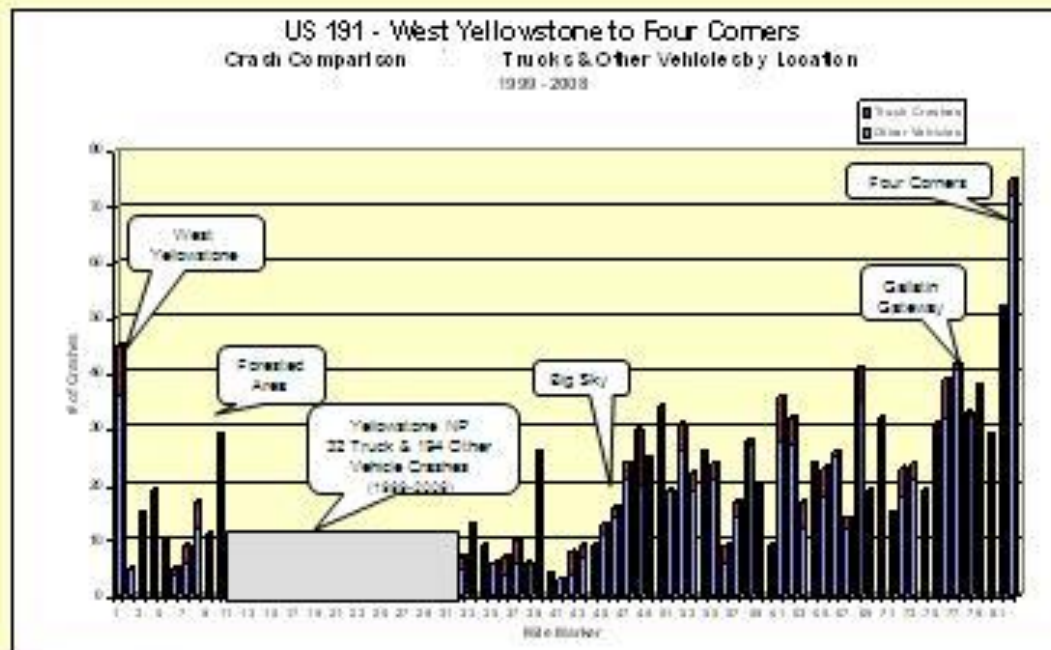
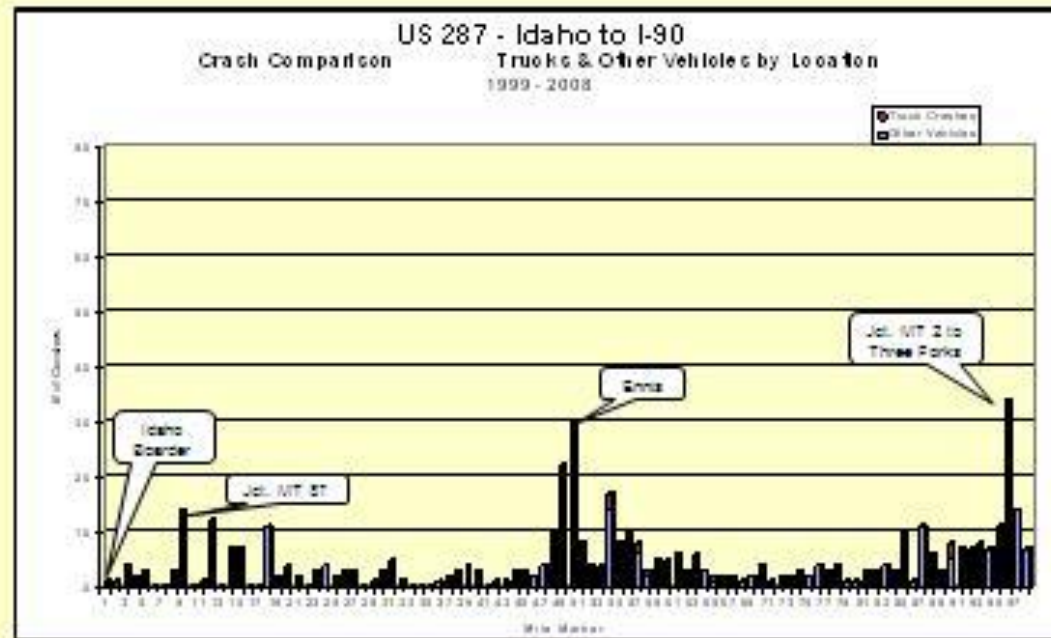






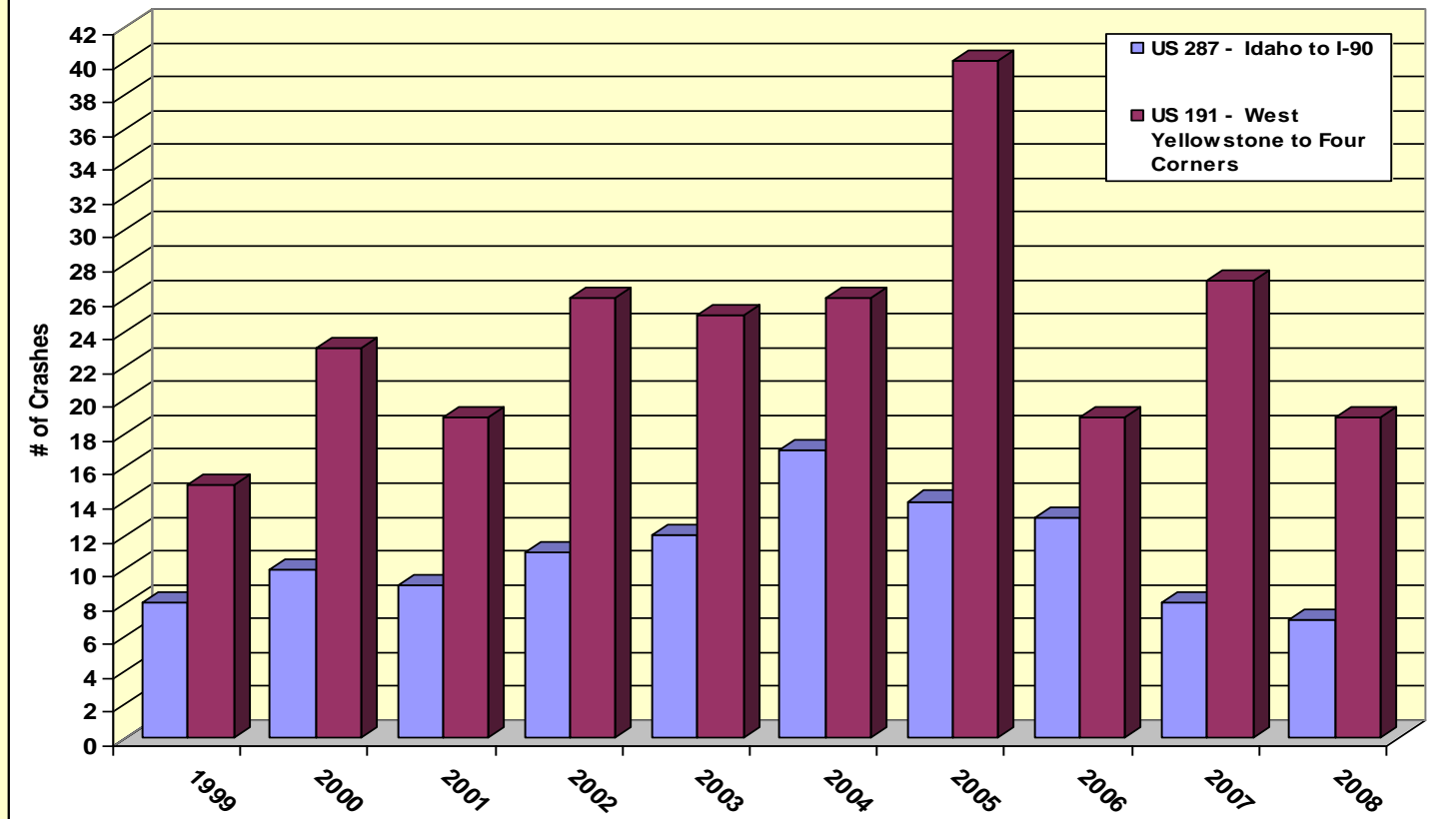




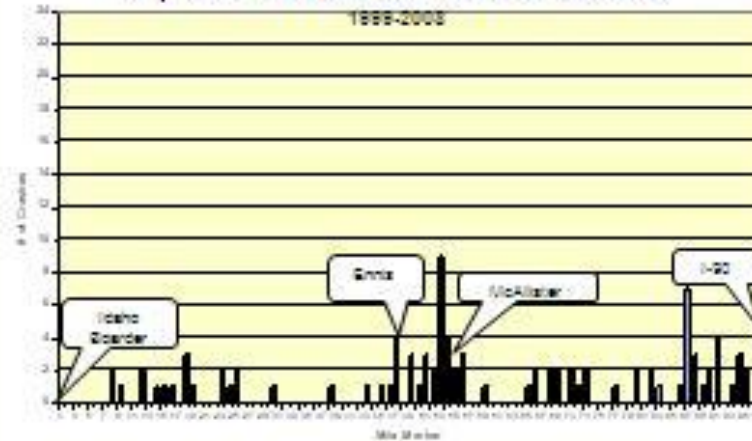




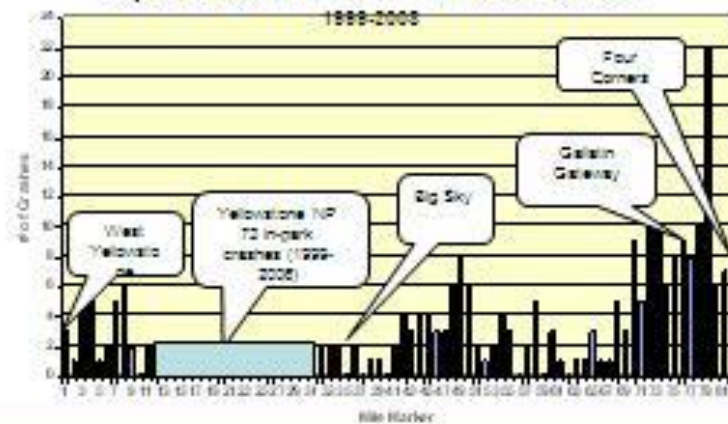
## Reported Wild Animal – Vehicle Collisions



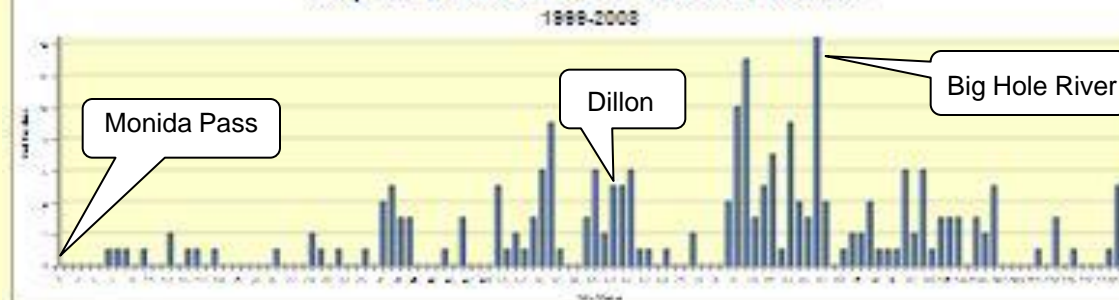
### US 287 – Idaho to I-90 Reported Wild Animal – Vehicle Collisions



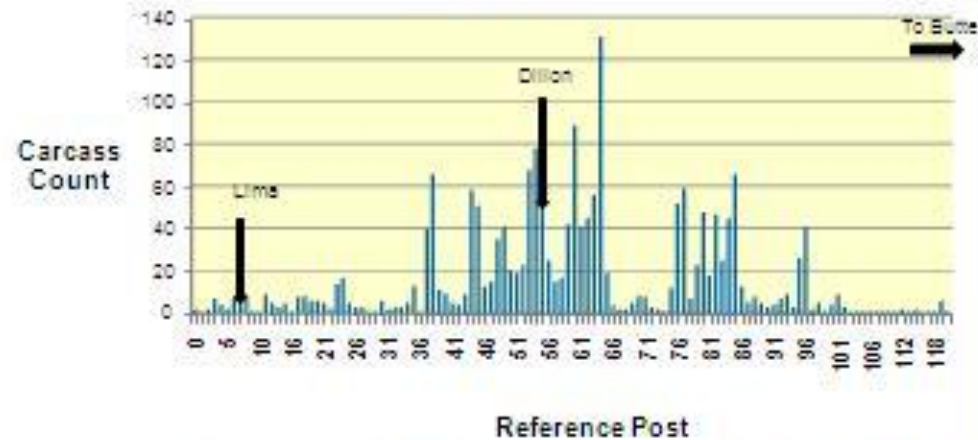
### US 191 – West Yellowstone to Four Corners Reported Wild Animal – Vehicle Collisions



### I-15 – Idaho to Rocker Reported Wild Animal – Vehicle Collisions

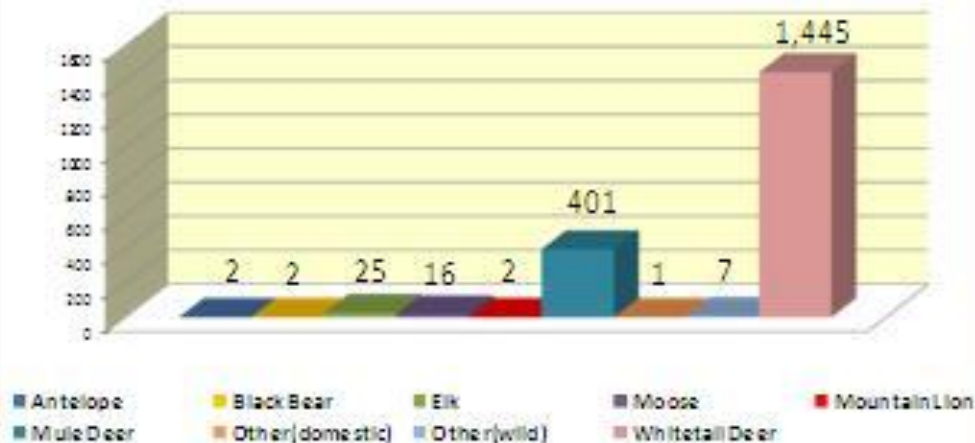


### Interstate 15 Animal Carcass Data 1998-2008



The MDT Animal Carcass Database is an opportunistic collection and reporting database - not all incidents are recorded.  
The data is not statistically valid and is to be interpreted accordingly.

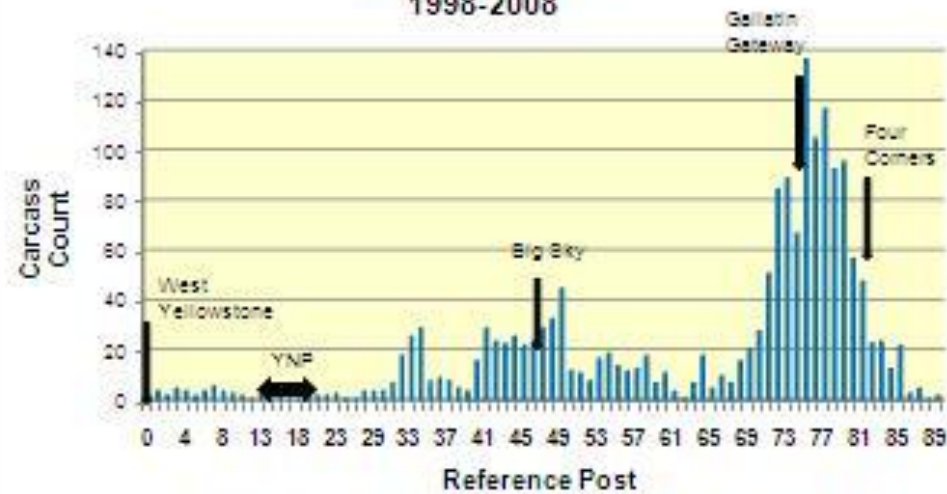
### Interstate 15 MP 0-MP 120 Carcass Count by Species 1998-2008



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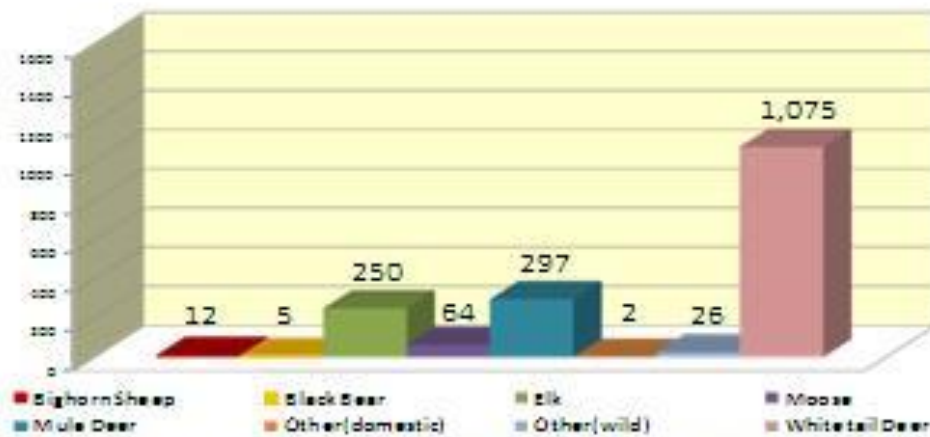


# US 191 Animal Carcass Data 1998-2008

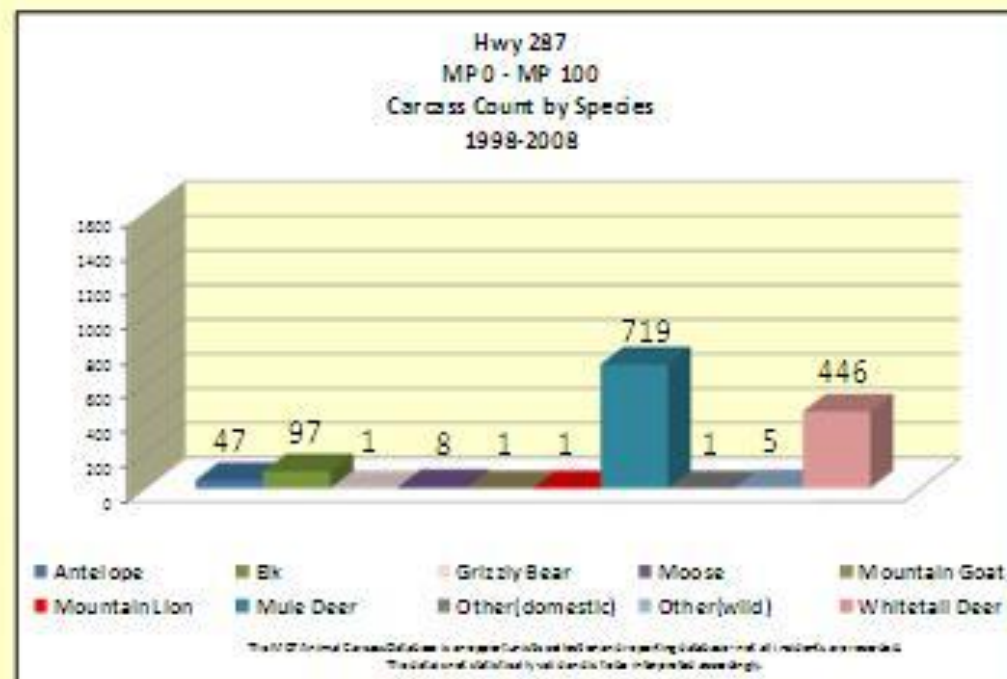
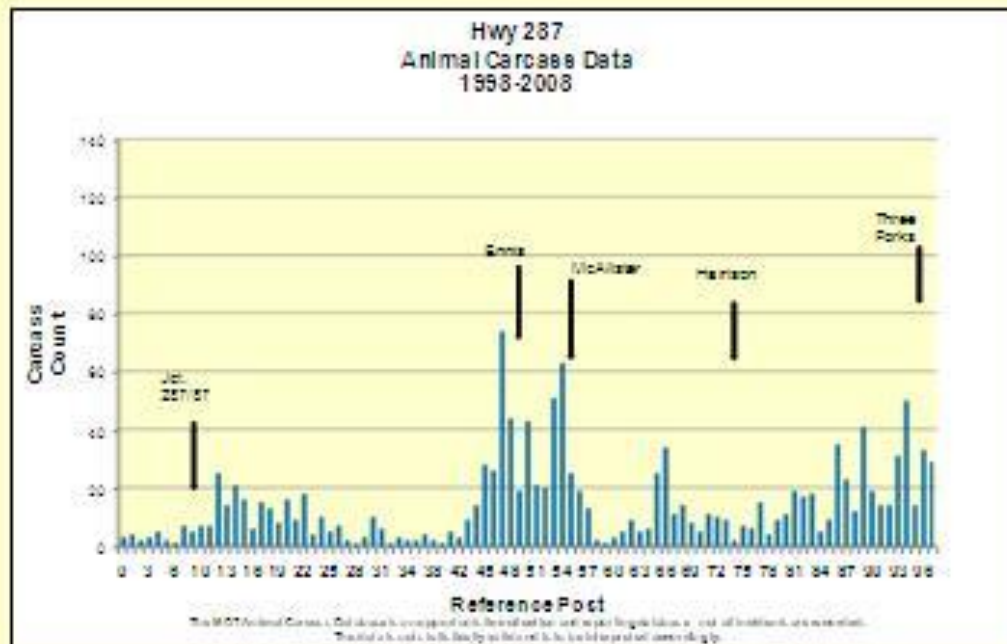


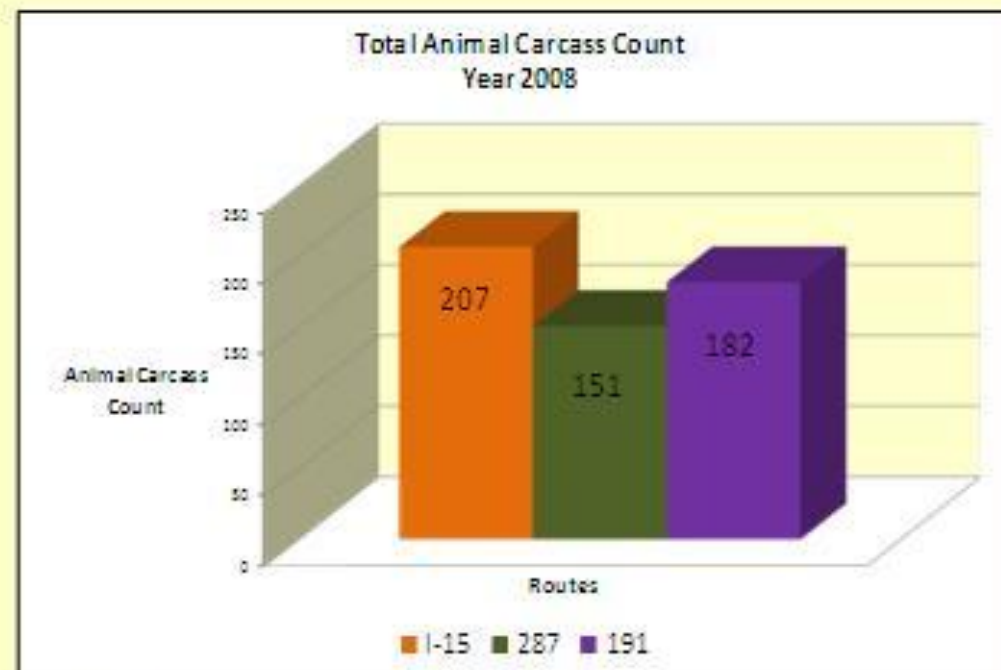
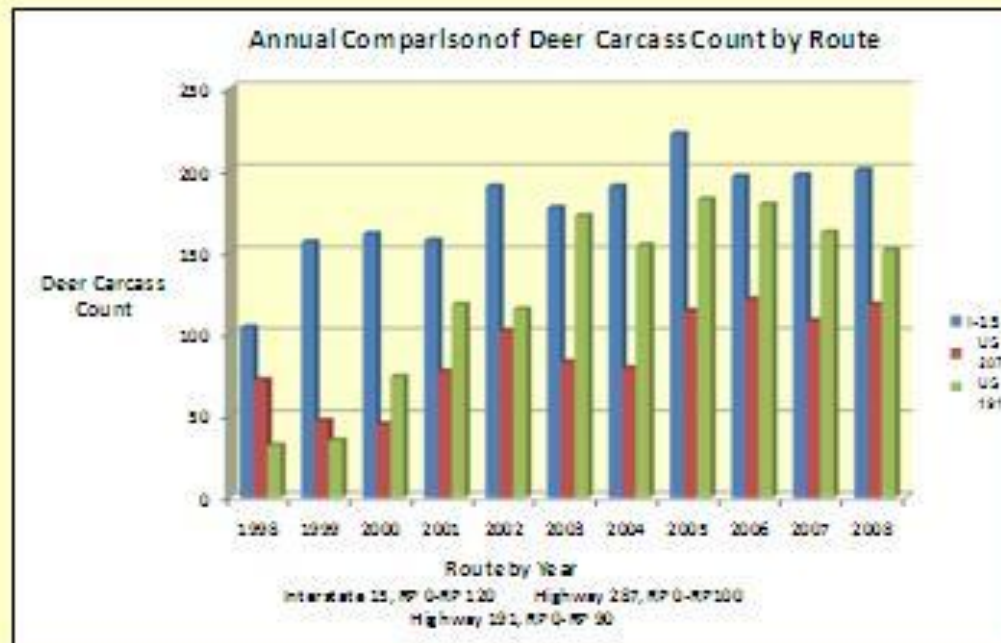
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## US 191 (P-50) MP 0 - MP 90 Carcass Count by Species 1998-2008



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# **Clarifications**

**Perception Claimed: 53% of trucks traveling across Montana go to other states or markets.**

Actual: The study shows 25% of trucks through Ennis go to other states or markets and 33% begin or end within 100 miles of Ennis.

**Perception Claimed: Most Madison Valley truck traffic is mid-week.**

Actual: Correct statement.

**Perception Claimed: Tourism is the second most important economic activity in Montana and these semis travel close to the blue ribbon Madison River.**

Actual: Approximately 9 miles out of 97 miles of the highway (US 287 & MT 87) have close proximity to the river with 3.5 miles closer than 500 feet.

## **Clarifications Cont.**

**Perception Claimed:** The two lane roads of the Madison Valley are not the safest route for semis. MDT's mission statement is to assure safe routes. MDT shows crashes by highway designation in 2007 to be Interstate – 6; US highway – 31; state highway – 84.

Actual:

<b>Road Type</b>	<b># of Miles in Madison County</b>	<b>Average # Crashes</b>	<b>Total # of crashes</b>
Interstate	7.5	0.8 per mile	6
US 287	80.6	0.38 per mile	31
State Highway	92.2	0.9 per mile	83

## **Clarifications Cont.**

**Perception MCS enforcement on US 287 since June 2008 shows a high rate of safety and weight violations. Main Street in Ennis is severely damaged from the weight of semis. Citizens and tourists have fallen while crossing the uneven and rutted pavement.**

Actual: MCS has increased enforcement since the US 191 detour and a Main Street repair project is currently being designed. Officers worked US 287 weekly

and included:

296 hours scheduled

260 vehicles checked

132 vehicles weighed

125 safety inspections conducted

11 drivers placed out of service

7 vehicles placed out of service

50 citations issued



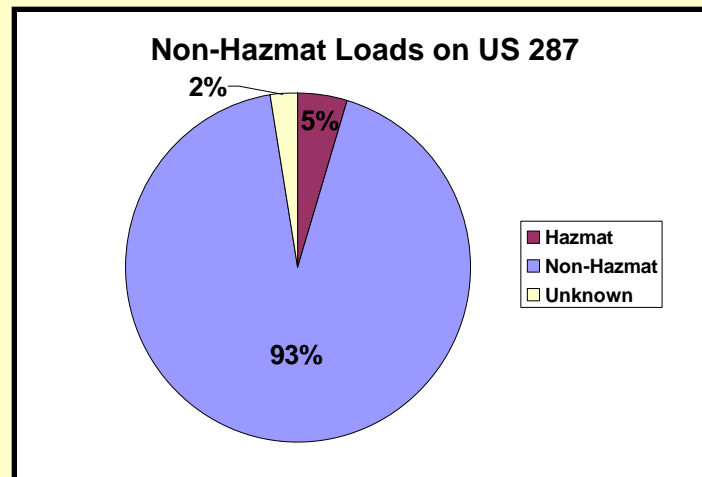
## **Clarifications Cont.**

**Perception Claimed:** The intersections at Ennis and Twin Bridges are two of the most dangerous.

Actual: The Ennis crashes at the US 287 and MT 287 intersection were reviewed for trends for the 5 year period ending Dec. 31, 2008. No crash trend were identified during this time period. Three crashes occurred at the stop sign.

**Perception Claimed:** All hazardous material trucks that cannot travel US 191 through Yellowstone National Park are rerouted through Ennis.

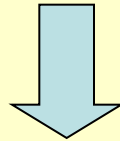
Actual:



# Future Considerations

- Truck parking capabilities
- Review nighttime seasonal speed limit reduction for wildlife migration patterns
  - Signage, wildlife crossings, etc.
- Special speed enforcement unit
- Pavement preservation – downtown Ennis
- Truck detour lifted for US 191 in 2010
- Variable message signs advising use of I-15 – in progress
- Increase MCS patrols – in progress
- More truck speed limit signs
- WGA truck proposals (MDT supports)

For  
questions, comments, or to  
provide input



Please join MDT staff  
near the posters  
for further discussion

THANK YOU