

Wildlife collisions costly

Posted Dec. 22, 2007—Some 200 people per year die in vehicle-wildlife collisions, reports reports the **Dec. 22, 2007, New York Times** (*loads slowly*).

Other data from the story:

- The accidents increased 50 percent from 1990 to 2004;
- The human death toll increased from 111 in 1995 to around 200 in 2005;
- Vehicle collisions are a major cause of mortality for 21 federally endangered or threatened species;
- Seven grizzlies were killed on Montana roads in 2007;
- The average cost of a vehicle-deer collision is \$8,000 for repair, towing and cleaning up the carcass;
- Hitting an elk averages \$18,000;
- Hitting a moose averages \$30,000.

The Times story was largely compiled using data provided by the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University in Bozeman, and has a strong Montana angle.