



United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368

Boise, Idaho 83709

Telephone (208) 378-5243

<http://www.fws.gov/idaho>

September 5, 2017

Chris West, Director
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1875 Lawrence Street, Suite 320
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. West,

The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office is pleased to write to you in support of Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Idaho Transportation Department's joint effort to build safe wildlife passage on US 20, in the Targhee Pass project area in eastern Idaho. These agencies have created a formal relationship that provides them with the tools to protect wildlife that are challenged to safely navigate across our roadways.

In the Island Park area, including the 4-mile stretch of the Targhee Pass project, wildlife-vehicle collisions impact mule deer, elk, moose, bison, grizzly bear, and numerous other animals. Yellowstone cutthroat trout cannot successfully navigate to upper stream reaches of Howard Creek. Wolverines and grizzly bears also use this area as an important dispersal corridor between ecosystems in the north and the Greater Yellowstone.

The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office supports this project to create wildlife mitigation for ungulates, carnivores, fish, and other small animals on the Targhee Pass project. This area is also within our Middle Rockies Priority Conservation Area, and would target priority species and associated conservation goals and objectives identified in our office's recently completed [Priority Conservation Strategy](#). We hope that you will award this grant to the state agencies that can ensure a lasting outcome for wildlife conservation and human safety.

Sincerely,

Gregory M. Hughes
State Supervisor