

Baggs Deer Underpass Update #2

The Baggs deer underpass continued to receive a high amount of use by mule deer through the end of December. A total of 3,279 mule deer crossings have been documented with photos. Unfortunately, due to a couple instances when the camera was not functioning, this is a conservative number and the actual number of crossings is likely substantially higher. The camera was down for a 32-hour period between the morning of November 15 and the afternoon of November 16 due to the memory card being full. The camera was also down from the afternoon of November 21 to the afternoon of December 1. The lithium batteries did not last nearly as long as indicated due to the high number of night-time photos which require the use of infrared flash. The two periods when the camera was inactive coincided with a period of very high use of the underpass by mule deer. In just five days (Nov. 16 – Nov. 21), over 700 mule deer crossings were recorded before the camera lost power. After the batteries were replaced, over 1,100 mule deer crossings were recorded in a 13-day period. Several elk were documented in the underpass as well as at the east entrance where they were attracted to alfalfa hay. A few crossings were recorded, but most of the elk refused to use the underpass. When the camera was checked on December 29, it appeared that the fall migration was winding down. There were not nearly as many deer visible along Muddy Creek and documented mule deer crossings were roughly 1/3 of the number recorded during the previous time interval.

Table 1. Number of documented mule deer crossings through Baggs Underpass from October 16, 2009 to December 29, 2009.

Mule Deer Crossings through Baggs Underpass - WYO 789, Milepost 45			
Date	East to West Crossings	West to East Crossings	Total
Oct. 16 - Nov. 15	853	154	1,007
Nov. 16 - Nov. 21	552	157	709
Nov. 21 - Dec. 1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dec. 1 - Dec. 14	1,036	81	1,117
Dec. 14 - Dec. 29	377	69	446
Total:	2,818	461	3,279

Table 2. Other wildlife crossings through Baggs Underpass from October 16, 2009 to December 29, 2009.

Other Wildlife Crossings through Baggs Underpass - WYO 789, Milepost 45			
Date	Elk	Bobcat	Coyote
Oct. 16 - Nov. 15	0	1	1
Nov. 16 - Nov. 21	4	0	0
Nov. 21 - Dec. 1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dec. 1 - Dec. 14	0	0	0
Dec. 14 - Dec. 29	0	0	3
Total:	4	1	4



Figure 1. View, facing west, of the game camera and well-defined deer trail through the underpass.



Figure 2. View, facing west, of the deer trail through the underpass.

2009-12-15 3:44:59 PM M 1/1

27°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-12-26 1:07:58 AM M 1/1

13°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-12-28 11:38:23 PM M 1/1

☺ -6°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-11-18 1:31:38 AM M 1/1

☺ 14°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-12-18 11:31:55 PM M 1/1

☉ -2°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-12-15 10:43:13 AM M 1/1

☉ 17°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-12-15 5:07:26 PM M 1/1 23°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-12-16 4:02:51 PM M 1/1 33°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYA

2009-12-18 7:27:44 AM M 1/1

☉ 1°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYX

2009-12-24 2:51:08 PM M 1/1

☉ 17°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

RECONYX

2009-11-17 7:52:21 AM M 1/1

13°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS



2009-12-09 1:28:19 PM M 1/1

7°F



BAGGS UNDERPASS

