

### **FAST FACTS**

Wyoming crash data from 2017-2021 report that:

- Nearly 20% of all traffic crashes were wildlifeinvolved crashes.
- ✓ The majority of wildlifeinvolved crashes were damage crashes (97.5%).
- ✓ 27,470 wildlife carcasses were reported within the WYDOT maintained right of way.
- Deer were the most common type of wild animal involved in a traffic crash (84%).
- Most wildlife collisions occurred in dark and unlighted conditions (59%).
- Approximately half (51%) of all wildlife collisions occurred between the hours of 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.
- ✓ The majority of wildlifeinvolved crashes occurred during the summer and fall months (68%).

### **CRASH CATEGORIES:**

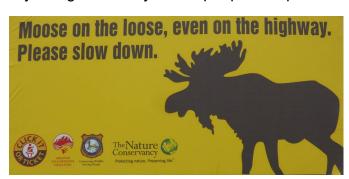
Critical Crashes – fatal and suspected serious injury crashes. Serious Crashes – suspected minor injury and possible injury crashes. Damage Crashes – no apparent injury and injury unknown crashes.

## Highway Safety Report



### Wildlife-Involved Crashes

Wyoming's roadways allow people and products to travel through the state.



Due to the mostly rural nature of Wyoming, these roadways often cross through the habitat of many native wildlife species. This shared use of space can lead to an increased risk of motor vehicle collisions with

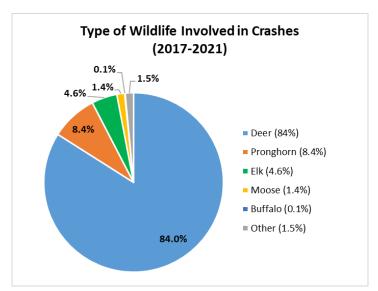
wildlife, presenting a danger to human safety as well as wildlife survival.

In Wyoming, during the most recent five-year period (2017-2021), 13,746 traffic crashes involved wildlife, which accounts for nearly 20% of all traffic crashes. These wildlife-involved crashes included 56 critical crashes (2.6% of all critical crashes), 283 serious crashes (2.7% of all serious crashes), and 13,407 damage crashes (23.4% of all damage crashes). Wildlife-involved crashes resulted in 5 fatal injuries, 55 suspected serious injuries, 216 suspected minor injuries, and 129 possible injuries.

Wildlife-involved crashes are likely underreported due to the majority of wildlife collisions resulting in property damage only or no damage to the vehicle at all. For the years 2017-2021, 27,470 wildlife carcasses were reported within the WYDOT maintained right of way, which is likely only a fraction of the total vehicle collision wildlife fatality count.

Of the wild animals involved in a traffic crash for the years 2017-2021, the top five types of wild animals included deer (84%), pronghorn (8.4%), elk (4.6%), moose (1.4%), and other wild animal (1.5%).

In 2017-2021, most wildlife collisions occurred in dark and unlighted conditions



(59%), followed by daylight (25%), dawn (8%), dusk (5%), and then dark and lighted (3%) conditions. Approximately half (51%) of all wildlife

## BY THE NUMBERS

WYDOT Crash Data December 1, 2022 vs. (December 1, 2021)

**Fatalities: 124 (102)** 

Serious Injuries: 447 (451)

Alcohol-Involved Fatalities: 43 (34)

Bicycle-Involved Fatalities: 1 (0)

CMV-Involved Fatalities: 22 (12)

Drug-Involved Fatalities: 34 (17)

Motorcycle-Involved Fatalities: 19 (16)

Pedestrian-Involved Fatalities: 7 (10)

Speed-Related Fatalities: 53 (47)

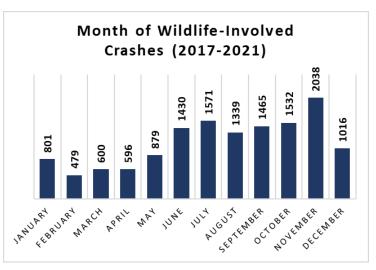
Data current as of 12/15/2022



5300 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82009 www.dot.state.wy.us collisions occurred between the hours of 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., and nearly 20% occurred between the hours of 5 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Most wildlife-involved crashes in 2017-2021 occurred during the summer and fall months (68%), with November having the highest number of collisions with wildlife (14.8%).

For the most recent five-year period (2017-2021), the top five counties with the



highest number of wildlife-involved crashes included Fremont (10.8%), Park (7.2%), Campbell (7.1%), Sheridan (6.9%), and Natrona (6.4%). Fremont County had the highest number of deer (11.2%) and other wild animal (11.2%) collisions. Campbell County had the highest number of pronghorn collisions (14.6%). Teton County had the highest number of elk (17.9%) and bison (45.5%) collisions. Sublette County had the highest number of moose collisions (29%).

State and local transportation agencies look for ways to meet the needs of the traveling public, maintain human safety, and conserve wildlife. WYDOT continues to collaborate with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties in implementing solutions to wildlife-vehicle crashes and remain consistent with the Governor's Wyoming Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection Executive Order 2020-1.

# Monthly Critical Crash Comparison: 2021 and 2022 DATA IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE 80 40 20 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Total as of 12/15/2022