

Special Committee on Traffic Safety
Wildlife Collisions

Regina Fish & Game League
Paul Legrand – Director

The Regina Fish & Game League has been around for 59 years in the Regina area. We have just under 1300 members. Most members are involved in the shooting sports, hunting, fishing & conservation! Our two main objectives of the Regina Fish & Game League is to promote the conservation & propagation of wildlife; to assist the various governmental authorities in developing, maintaining and enforcing the Fish and Game Regulations from time to time promulgated in relation to wildlife. The Regina Fish & Game League currently holds a seat on the Wildlife Advisory Committee Board.

Lost Revenues from Hunting licenses & Hunting Opportunities

Every year in Saskatchewan, hunting licenses sales generate millions of dollars for the provincial government and for our economy! The province of Saskatchewan could have lost between \$275,000 to \$453,000 dollars

in hunting license sales in 2010 and \$262,000 to \$433,000 in hunting license

sales in 2011. Plus the value of the wildlife itself. Our Provincial economy would have lost between \$13.3 million - \$26.8 million dollars in 2010 & 2011. Hunting licenses are a tool used in managing wildlife!

Facts

According to SGI, insurance claims in 2010 were \$ 48 million dollars, with 13,733 collisions, 8 deaths, and 376 people suffered injuries; in 2011 13,148 collisions, 2 deaths, 309 people suffered injuries, and \$48 million dollars in insurance claims. SGI has in 2013, started recording wildlife collisions as what kind of wildlife: deer or moose.

When Do Collisions Occur

Most wildlife collisions occur between sunset and sunrise, with most collisions occurring during the mating seasons, when wildlife movement is at its peak, or when we have a bad winter that has lots of snowfall, wildlife moving to and from their bedding area to the food source. There are other factors like speed, distracted driving, fatigue and visibility in some cases,

which are all human factors that can lead to wildlife collisions. With deer you can see their eyes reflect in the headlights, in the ditches or on the shoulder of the road. Now that we have a good moose population in the grasslands and parkland ecosystems (farmland moose), moose are harder to see in these peak periods because of their black hides and their eyes don't reflect in the headlights.

Saskatchewan's economy is growing! With this growth more people are moving into the province. Our cities and towns are expanding, more acreages, more people are commuting to and from their jobs! In today's economy, everybody's in a rush, so this can present some real challenges to traffic safety!

SIG and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation have been trying to bring awareness to the public on wildlife collisions through the “Save a buck” and “Moose on the loose” public service announcements!

Recommendations

1. Identify the hotspots

2. Educating the public
3. Reduce your speed and slow down and increase vigilance in peak collision areas.
4. More signage in high collision area, with flashing lights (solar panels)
5. Making sure ditches and road allowances are cut! (Dept. Of Highways and R.M.'s
6. Working with Crop Insurance, and other government agencies or groups.

Enclosing, I would like to thank the Special Committee on Traffic Safety for giving me the opportunity to make this presentation.

Paul Legrand