

# NWW Lecture Series 2010

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## Thursday Nights 7-8PM question/answer period afterwards.

Feb 18 – Ninemile Ranger Station - Marcel Huijser **“Wildlife-vehicle collisions: impacts and mitigation measures.”**

Dr. Marcel Huijser received his M.S. in population ecology (1992) and his Ph.D. in road ecology (2000) at Wageningen University in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Currently Marcel works on wildlife-transportation issues for the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University. In this position he is responsible for a series of completed and ongoing highway wildlife mitigation projects. A few examples of these efforts include a Congressional report and a handbook on wildlife-vehicle collision reduction strategies, leading research into the development, reliability and effectiveness of animal detection systems, and NCHRP project that investigated data collection efforts by state and provincial highway agencies and natural resource management agencies in the United States and Canada. Furthermore, Marcel is the lead author on a recently published peer-reviewed article on cost-benefit analyses for mitigation measures aimed at reducing collisions with large ungulates, and he is a co-author of the Island Press book "Safe Passages, Highways, Wildlife, and Habitat Connectivity" that is scheduled for publication in September 2010.

March 18– Ninemile Ranger Station - Mike Mitchell, **“Monitoring wolves in the northern Rockies, or, when someone asks you to study wolves in Montana, just say no!”**

Large carnivores are notoriously hard to monitor because they are relatively rare and highly elusive. Once wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains are removed from the Endangered Species list, federal funding that has supported unprecedented levels of monitoring will evaporate, though monitoring requirements specified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will not change. States that assume responsibility for management of wolves following delisting currently have no means of meeting those requirements reliably. We have been working for the past 3 years to develop cost-effective tools for monitoring wolves in Idaho and Montana that will allow these states to meet USFWS monitoring requirements as well as ensuring state management of wolves as a game species does not return the wolf populations to endangered status. Using new field and analytical techniques, we are approaching the point where state-wide estimates of wolf numbers and breeding pairs are now possible.

April 22 – Alberton Town Hall, 701 Railroad Ave. – Laurie Yung, **“Weeds, Wildlife, and Ninemilers.”**

Laurie Yung is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Montana and the Director of its Wilderness Institute. Her teaching and research focuses on the social and political aspects of conservation, with an emphasis on rural communities in the Northern Rockies. More specifically, she is interested in knowing how private landowners cooperate across property boundaries on conservation issues such as weeds and wildlife, especially in the context of changing landownership; how volunteer monitoring and citizen science programs change community involvement in public land management; and how local community views and interests are integrated into protected area planning and management.

May 20 – Alberton Town Hall, 701 Railroad Ave. – Julie Chapmann, wildlife artist, **"From the Field to the Gallery: How a Wildlife Painting is Made"**

Join nationally-recognized, award-winning animal artist Julie T. Chapman - who lives here in our own Nine Mile Valley - as she discusses the journey involved in creating her artwork, from fieldwork to inspiration to finished piece. Julie's artwork has been juried and invited into many national and international exhibitions, such as Birds in Art, American Academy of Equine Artists, the CM Russell auction, National Museum of Wildlife Art's Western Visions, and others; paintings and drawings of hers can be found in a number of museum and public collections, and her work is represented in galleries throughout the West. She has been drawing since she was old enough to hold a pencil, and is enthralled with her animal subjects.