

Community Focus Statement A: Preserve and enhance the unique environmental features of the Lake Arrowhead Communities and surrounding areas.

Action Statement A.3: *Coordinate with Caltrans to identify opportunities to provide tunnels and wildlife corridors under or over roadways as well as incorporating requirements as part of the development review process.*

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Benchmarks: A wildlife corridor study is funded with the guidance of the County of San Bernardino and Caltrans.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Wildlife corridor study: \$200,000–\$500,000



Example of a wildlife corridor underpass under a major road. Photo source: FHWA.

The Lake Arrowhead communities and the surrounding area comprise a complex ecosystem that includes numerous animal species, contributing to the community’s identify as a tourist destination. Development within the community, including buildings, roads, and other man-made structures, poses challenges to many of these animals when they are attempting to move from one location to another. To better ensure the safe movement of these species, wildlife crossings and corridors can be utilized.

Wildlife crossings refer to the range of facilities constructed above or below roadways and other man-made facilities to provide animals with safe unobstructed crossings. These facilities include tunnels,

culverts, viaducts, and wildlife bridges. The facilities vary greatly in size and complexity, depending on the species that the facilities are intended to serve. Wildlife corridors are undeveloped habitat areas that connect wildlife populations. The corridors are typically identified through the project review process for greenfield or formerly undeveloped sites.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact local conservation groups to form a working committee to identify opportunities and areas of need for tunnels and wildlife corridors.	Champion	Month 1	BDA Environmental Consultants, Wildlife Crossing Handbook, March 2010 http://www.bda-inc.com/wordpress/BDA-Resources/FINAL_BDA%20Wildlife%20Crossings%20Handbook_032510.pdf
2. Contact the US Forest Service (USFS) Caltrans, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), to obtain support for preparation of a wildlife corridor study.	Committee members	Month 1	Federal Highway Administration, US State DOT Wildlife Crossing Structures http://guides.libraryconnectivity.org/Wildlife_Crossing
3. Work with USFS, Caltrans, CDFW and County Department of Public Works to identify funding opportunities for a wildlife corridor survey and an approach to pursue funding.	Committee members	Month 2	California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Connectivity/CEHC
4. After establishment of funds, work with the County Public Works Department, with support from Caltrans, CDFW, and USFS, to develop a request for proposals for selecting a consultant to develop a wildlife corridor study.	Committee members with assistance from County Public Works Department	Months 3–4	Caltrans Wildlife Crossings Guidance Manual https://roadecology.ucdavis.edu/files/content/projects/CA_Wildlife%20Crossings%20Guidance_Manual.pdf
5. Accept a proposal and move forward in developing and approving a wildlife corridor study developed by the selected consultant.	County Public Works Department, USFS, CDFW, and Caltrans in coordination with responsible agencies associated with the recommendations	Months 5–16	Southern California Mountains Foundation: http://mountainsfoundation.org/
6. Coordinate with the responsible agencies for assistance in gaining funding opportunities to begin improvements recommended in the corridor study.	Committee Members with support from County Public Works Department, USFS, CDFW, and Caltrans	Months 17–52	