Critical Areas For Wildlife Habitat Or Population Connectivity. Factors Placing Connectivity At Risk Are Highways or Private Land Developments. Special Management Emphasis Is Required To Maintain Or Increase Permeability.

Habitat Loss And Fragmentation Are The Two Leading Causes Of Species Extinction.

To Assess Species And Habitat Needs
To Assess Habitat Fragmentation
To Assess Potential Wildlife Crossings
To Determine the Best Wildlife Crossings
**Linkage Area Analysis**

1. Provides the basis for determining the best linkage areas
2. Fundamental to planning for wildlife crossings
3. Best chance for making effective wildlife crossings

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**Basic Questions:**

- What habitat are we trying to connect?
- Are these the best linkage areas and crossings?
- What needs to be done to secure, manage, and protect linkage areas?

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**Process Is Hierarchical:**

- **Broad Scale:**
  - Mid-Scale:
  - Fine Scale:

**Broad Scale:**

- Geographic Area

**Mid-Scale:**

- Highway length or major segment

**Fine Scale:**

- Exact placement and structure design

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*Biophences Passive Design*
Core areas of species habitat are connected by movement corridors
Outlier zones around the core allow some compatible human development
6. How Many Structures Are Needed and Where Should They Be Located?

Linkage Area Planning, Analysis And Implementation Is an Interagency Process

1. Highway Agencies
2. Land Management Agencies
3. Wildlife Agencies
4. Federal, State, and County Government

Includes Partnerships Not Often Encountered By Highway Agencies

- The Nature Conservancy
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Trust For Public Lands
- Trout Unlimited
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Wildlife Federation

Other Benefits of Providing Wildlife Linkage Areas

- Improvements in Highway Safety
- Reduced Vehicle Collision Costs

Monitoring and Research

- Improving Designs And Concepts
- Improve Cost Effectiveness
- Maintain or Improve Public, Agency and Political Support
Questions and Discussion?