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Regional and National Experts on Deer-Vehicle Crashes Will Exchange Views at UW-Madison Symposium

Department of Transportation safety personnel and Department of Natural Resources ecologists from Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa will pool their knowledge about deer-vehicle crashes at the 3rd Annual Deer-Vehicle Crash Information Clearinghouse Symposium on February 13, 2004 at the Pyle Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

The workshop is sponsored by the Deer-Vehicle Crash (DVC) Information Clearinghouse located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Clearinghouse was formed in July 2001 to evaluate methods for collecting deer crash data and to serve as a forum for information sharing on crash avoidance measures.

The most recent information shows that more than 124,000 deer-vehicle crashes are reported annually in the five-state region (and that approximately the same number may go unreported), causing 25 deaths, more than 4,900 injuries, and vehicle damage exceeding \$210 million.

The workshop will feature presentations by regional and national investigators. Representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources are expected to welcome participants to the workshop at 8:30 AM. Wrap-up is about 3:15 PM.

Invited speakers and their proposed topics include:

John Bissonette, Utah State University	“Road Ecology Science and Solutions” and Utah State DVC-Related Research
Patricia White, Defenders of Wildlife	Transportation Bill Reauthorization and FHWA/TRB Initiatives
Scott Bradley, Minnesota Dept. of Transportation	The PlantSelector Tool – Expert System for the Selection of Roadside Plants.
Mark Endries, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Mapping Wildlife Needs in Florida: The Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System
William Rudiger, USDA Forest Service	Wildlife Habitat Linkages and Linkage Analysis and Developing More Effective Wildlife Crossings

A limited number of seats at the workshop will be open to the public on a first-come first-serve basis. Please call 608-262-0320 no later than February 2, 2004 to confirm that space is available.