What was the scope of the project?

The project begins just north of Wenatchee, between Rocky Reach Dam to Spencer Canyon, on US-97A. This corridor has been identified as a high wildlife collision area. Within the project limits, there have been approximately 500 recorded collisions with wildlife in the last ten years. The project included the installation of approximately 8.95 miles of long-term custom wildlife fence, which was constructed along the west side of Highway 97-A from milepost 203.15 to 212.10. This section of the Highway has received the greatest number of vehicle collisions with deer and bighorns.

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this I-2 safety enhancement project is to improve the safety of motorists, reduce damage to vehicles, and reduce collisions with bighorn sheep and mule deer, while maintaining access to public lands through a long-term solution.

Project Timeline

The project was divided into three phases, with two of the three phases already completed.

The first phase constructed the fence from MP 207.95 to MP 212.1. This phase was completed Nov. 2009.

The second phase constructed the fence from MP 206.4 to MP 207.95 and was completed Oct. 2010.

The third phase is currently under construction and completes the fence from M 203.15 to MP 206.4. The fence will be completed 2011.

Funding Partners:
- Wenatchee Sportsman’s Association
- Seattle Sportsmen Conservation Foundation
- Washington State, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep:
- State Farm Insurance:
- Mt. Vernon Mule Deer Foundation Central Washington Mule Deer Foundation
- Woodinville Mule Deer Foundation
- Washington State Bow hunters
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- WSDOT Pre-Existing Gas Tax
Wildlife Fence Reduces Collisions with Deer and Sheep by 80%

The two sections of wildlife fence installed in phases one and two have drastically reduced the number of collisions with deer and sheep.

Since phase one was completed there have only been 11 vehicle/wildlife collisions (VWC) reported by maintenance within the project limits. Three of these collisions were within phase one mile post limits, two within phase two mile post limits, and the remainder in phase three mile post limits which is just now being constructed.

Prior to the fence installation this section of roadway saw an average of 40 VWC’s per year. The 11 VWC’s over a twenty month period equates to over an 80% reduction.

Environmental Benefits/outcomes

- Decreased WVC’s and resulting injury and property damage for the traveling public
- Increased mule deer and bighorn sheep survival supporting WDFW and Sportsman’s association conservation efforts.
- Ensure future funding for WDFW via bighorn sheep raffles
- Prevent orchard and landscape damage from animals.
- Reduce costs for WSDOT maintenance crews to remove carcasses.