

**PANEL PRESENTATION**  
**HIGHWAY WILDING: A DOCUMENTARY FILM**  
**FROM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION**

**Organizer:**

Rachelle Haddock

**Panelist Names:**

Leanne Allison (B.Sc.), (403-679-9041, [leanne@necessaryjourneys.ca](mailto:leanne@necessaryjourneys.ca)), Film Maker, Necessary Journeys, 637 3rd Street Canmore, Alberta T1W 2H9 CANADA

Rob Ament (M.Sc.), (406-994-6423, [rament@coe.montana.edu](mailto:rament@coe.montana.edu)), Road Ecology Program Manager, Western Transportation Institute - Montana State University College of Engineering, PO Box 174250, Bozeman, MT 59717-4250 USA

Tony P. Clevenger (Ph.D.) (403-609-2127, [apclevenger@gmail.com](mailto:apclevenger@gmail.com)), Senior Wildlife Research Scientist, Western Transportation Institute - Montana State University College of Engineering, PO Box 174250, Bozeman, MT 59717-4250 USA

Rachelle L. Haddock (M.E.Des.) (403-440-8444 [rachelle@rockies.ca](mailto:rachelle@rockies.ca)), Research Associate, Miistakis Institute, Rm. U271, Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW, Calgary, Alberta, T3E 6K6 Canada

Tracy Lee (M.Sc.) (403-440-8444, [tracy@rockies.ca](mailto:tracy@rockies.ca)), Senior Project Manager, Miistakis Institute, Rm. U271, Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW, Calgary, Alberta, T3E 6K6 Canada

**ABSTRACT**

Co-creators of film: Leanne Allison, Tony Clevenger, Danah Duke (M.Sc., 403-440-8444, [danah@rockies.ca](mailto:danah@rockies.ca), Executive Director, Miistakis Institute Rm. U271, Mount Royal University, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW, Calgary, Alberta, T3E 6K6 Canada) and Rachelle Haddock

Build them and they will live. That is the simple message in this 30 minute documentary that looks at the issue of highways, and some of the pioneering solutions that exist to prevent road kill and reconnect landscapes across highways. In the Rocky Mountains we have one of the last best chances in the world to maintain a fully functioning ecosystem with all the native large carnivores, but roads are a major problem. Everything from grizzly bears to wolverines and ducks to salamanders need to get across roads safely for breeding, to find food, adapt to climate change, or to migrate. After seeing this film you'll never drive down a highway in the same way again.

The Highway Wilding film was created by award-winning film maker Leanne Allison (Being Caribou, Finding Farley, Bear 71) for Highway Wilding - a wildlife crossing structure research and monitoring collaborative in the Canadian Rocky Mountains ([www.Highwaywilding.org](http://www.Highwaywilding.org)). Highway Wilding partners include the Western Transportation Institute, Parks Canada Agency, Woodcock Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation and the Miistakis Institute. The film features Dr. Tony Clevenger, Dr. Richard Forman, and road ecologists and researchers from the Canadian Rocky Mountains. It focuses in on ecology and transportation challenges and solutions in the southwestern corner of the province of Alberta. From salamander underpasses in Waterton National Park to proposed highway mitigation on Highway 3 in southern Alberta, the film provides a detailed look at the history of highway mitigation for wildlife in Banff National Park, the current research and monitoring underway in the region, and future opportunities to design and build roadways with both wildlife and people in mind. Highway Wilding has been selected to be part of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2012/2013, the Fernie Mountain Film Festival, the 2013 New Zealand Mountain Film Festival and it will screen at the Banff Mountain Film Festival in the fall of 2013.

A trailer for the film can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvrBQGRnDpA>

The Highway Wilding film will be screened, followed by a panel discussion on the film including road ecology researchers featured in, or involved with, the creation of the film and the film maker (who will be joining in via Skype).

The Highway Wilding film will be made freely available for all ICOET attendees. Additionally, a curriculum guide to accompany the film is also freely available.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Leanne Allison is a filmmaker based in Canmore, Alberta. She has directed two award-winning documentaries with the National Film Board of Canada: [Being Caribou \(2004\)](#) and [Finding Farley \(2009\)](#). Both films are based on long epic personal journeys through remote wilderness areas in Canada. Each journey shapes the next, including her first foray into the world of interactive storytelling through [Bear 71](#). This recent creation premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and recently won the [FWA site of the Year Award](#). All of Leanne's projects explore themes of threatened wildlife and our connection to nature in the modern age.

Rob Ament is the Road Ecology Program Manager at Western Transportation Institute - Montana State University (WTI). Rob has more than 30 years of experience in ecology, natural resource management, environmental policy and organizational development. At WTI, Rob leads efforts to research, monitor and develop solutions to minimize the impacts of roads on the natural environment - in areas as diverse as wildlife, aquatics, vegetation, climate change and new technologies. He is the principal investigator of several research projects while managing nine staff in four locations in western North America that are working on 20 active projects. He is on the Steering Committee for the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, is a member of the Stakeholders Advisory Group for the Western Governors' Association's Wildlife Corridor Initiative, and was elected and serves on Montana State University's Sustainability Council. He served as a panelist for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program's synthesis on new technologies for environmental surveys and as a judge to select FHWA's Environmental Excellence Awards in 2013.

Tony Clevenger has carried out research since 1996, assessing the performance of mitigation measures designed to reduce habitat fragmentation on the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) in Banff National Park, Alberta. Since 2002, he has been a research wildlife biologist for the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at Montana State University. Tony is currently a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences Committee on *Effects of Highways on Natural Communities and Ecosystems*. He has published over 60 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals and has co-authored three books including, *Road Ecology: Science and Solutions* (Island Press, 2003) and *Safe Passages: Highways, Wildlife and Habitat Connectivity* (Island Press, 2010). Tony is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, has a Master's degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and a Doctoral degree in Zoology from the University of León, Spain.

Rachelle Haddock is a Research Associate with the Miistakis Institute. Rachelle serves as the communications coordinator for Highway Wilding - a wildlife crossing structure research and monitoring collaborative in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Rachelle has a B.Sc. in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Environmental Design (Environmental Science) from the University of Calgary.

Tracy is a senior project manager at the Miistakis Institute, a research institute affiliated with Mount Royal University; the institute brings people and ideas together to promote healthy

communities and landscapes. Tracy acquired her BSc from University of Victoria in biology and environmental design and her MSc from the University of Calgary, Resources and the Environment Program. Tracy's graduate work, in association with the Miistakis Institute, focused on the development and assessment of a citizen science project to monitor wildlife movement across a major highway.