



Road Watch in the Pass

Systematic Survey Guidelines

Road Watch would like to thank the following sponsors for their support: Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC), Woodcock Foundation, Calgary Foundation and Alberta Ecotrust Foundation.

Figure A:



The Otto Driving companion has been specifically designed for the Road Watch program.

The key pad in figure A is attached to a GPS Otto Companion that plugs into your cars cigarette lighter. There is no battery option for these units. The volume (voice announcement of buttons when pushed) can be controlled on the GPS unit by the far left

Road Watch in the Pass systematic survey's have been designed to complement data collection through the web-based mapping tool. In a systematic survey participants are responsible for driving specified sections of Highway 3 at least once a week and are responsible for documenting the start of the observation period, recording wildlife sighted along Highway 3 and the end of the observation period. To assist participants with data collection, Road Watch has purchased ten Otto Driving companions, a GPS device with a keypad enabling participants to select different species. Please review the following guidelines to ensure consistency in data collection protocols.

- **Step 1:** Decide on the specific section of Highway 3 you regularly drive and would like to take responsibility for. This is your designated transect. Please ensure Rob is aware of the section of highway you plan to drive.
- **Step 2:** Become familiar with the Otto driving companion, see figure A. The Otto can be used for 2 purposes:
 1. **Systematic Transects:**
 - Decide you are doing a transect prior to entering your specified section.
 - Turn your Otto on before the start of the transect (a solid green light indicated GPS is ready).
 - Select start transect at the beginning of your section and end transects at the end of your section. This will enable us to know when you drove a transect and did not see wildlife, important information for understanding the rate of wildlife movement across Highway 3.
 - Try to drive your transect during different time periods (dusk, night, dawn, day)
 2. **Opportunist observations:**
 - If you are not undertaking a transect you can still use the Otto Driving Companion for wildlife sighting— these observations will be separated from the systematic survey and entered into the Road Watch database.
- **Step 3:** Download the Otto Companion software from website: Or make arrangements with Rob for him to download your data on a

At a recent Road Watch participant meeting focused on the design of the systematic driving survey, the following data collection protocols were agreed on:

- Only record wildlife observations within 50m of Highway 3
- Record the observation with Otto when parallel to species.
- Record herds as one observation, as close to the middle of the heard as possible.
- Always record the species first, if the animal is adjacent and alive you are done.
- If the animal/s is/are crossing record species first then press the crossing button.
- If the animal is dead record the species first and then press the dead button.
- If the animal is dead you do **not** need to select the crossing button.
- If you make a mistake press the delete button within 60 seconds and the last record is deleted.
- Other is for species not represented on the keypad, as carnivore sightings are rare please report to Rob the species you record as other.
- Please note there is a deer button, as we recognize that identification can be difficult sometimes while driving down the highway.