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DENVER AND THE WEST

## Finalists named in designs for I-70 wildlife crossing

By Jeffrey Leib  
The Denver Post

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Design by Zwartz & Jantsma Architects, Amsterdam. View all the designs together below the story.

Promoters of a design competition to produce a "next generation" wildlife crossing for spanning Interstate 70 in the Vail area have revealed submissions from five finalists bidding for the award.

The Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University is sponsoring the ARC International Wildlife Crossing design competition, which settled on the finalists from 36 submissions that came in from nine countries.

The teams included 100 design firms from around the world. The finalists are teams led by design firms based in New York, Philadelphia, Toronto and Amsterdam.

Physical models of the five designs of finalists will be displayed at the Western Governors' Wildlife Council meeting in Denver on Wednesday,

said Rob Ament, Western Transportation Institute project manager for the competition.

### EXTRAS

[Read: more details about the finalists at the site arc-competition.com/finalists.php.](#)

The winning team will be announced at the Transportation Research Board's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 23.

"The winning design will serve as a model for the world in creating the next generation of wildlife crossings facilitating the movement and protection of wildlife and providing for the free flow of traffic and

people," promoters of the design competition said.

"These teams have shown that we have the research, the technology and the talent to create a state-of-

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the-art wildlife crossing that can be replicated throughout the United States and the world," Western Transportation Institute senior research scientist Tony Clevenger said in a statement.

Clevenger and others from the institute said designers had to deal with special challenges unique to the development of an animal crossing in the West Vail Pass area. They include heavy snow loads and other severe weather problems, an increasing volume of traffic on I-70, high elevation, steep grades and the possible future construction of an "advanced-guideway" train in the I-70 corridor.

The five finalist designs include such features as the "use of an inverted arc shape" for the crossing "that conveys the feeling of a valley for animals and results in more light for drivers," the transportation institute said.

Among the finalists, other features include:

- "An iconic red bridge that attracts human interest, but remains unremarkable to color-blind mammals"
- A diversity of building materials, including glued laminated timber, steel, glass-reinforced plastic, wood-core fiberglass and pre-cast concrete
- The placement of cameras on the crossing to provide real-time monitoring of wildlife movement

The I-70 site for the crossing at West Vail won out over about two dozen other U.S. and Canadian locations bidding to be the location for the prototype wildlife crossing.

According to the Colorado Department of Transportation, bear, bobcat, coyote, deer, elk, big-horn sheep and lynx are among the species involved in vehicle-animal collisions on Colorado roads.

The Western Transportation Institute has worked with CDOT in crafting the competition. Finalists for best design are expected to be pre-qualified by CDOT if the state agency ever solicits designs for the I-70 wildlife crossing. However, CDOT does not currently have money budgeted to build such a wildlife crossing.

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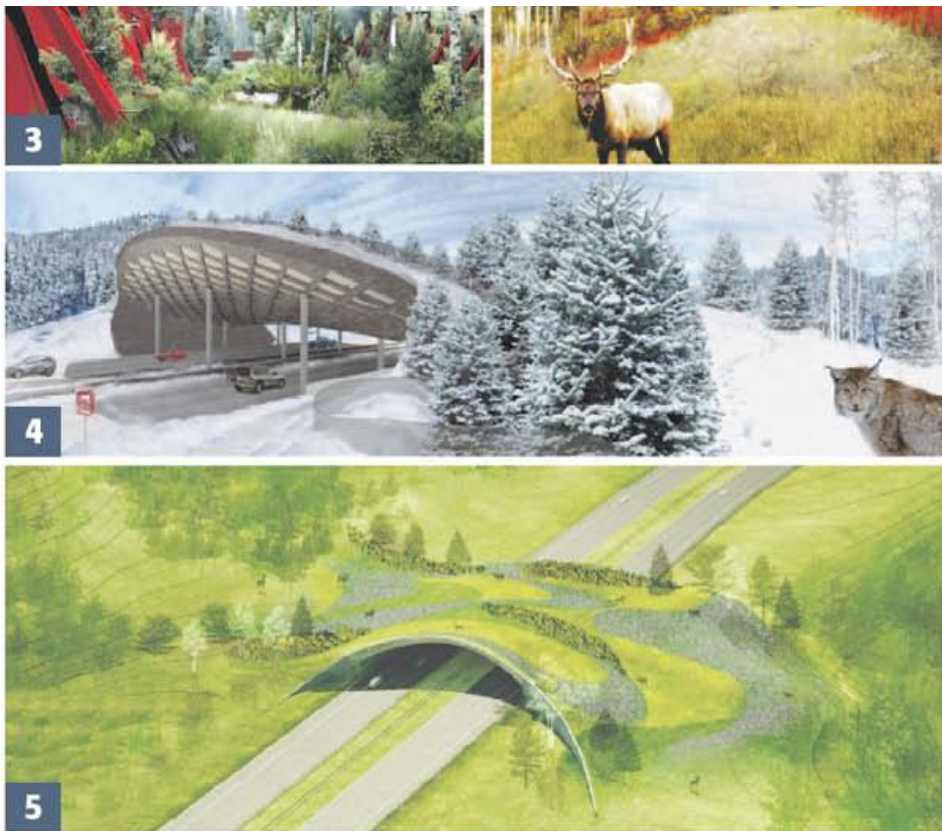
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Yes. The U.S. needs to prosecute members of Wikileaks for its recent actions and send the strong message that stealing U.S. secrets will not be tolerated.

No. That cat is out of the bag this time, the U.S. needs to focus on preventing future attacks upon its most guarded secrets



The five finalist teams for the wildlife crossing competition were chosen from submissions by 36 teams from nine countries, representing more than 100 firms worldwide. Here are renderings from the five finalists:

1. Michael Van Valkenburgh & Associates with HNTB Engineering, New York
2. Zwarts & Jantsma Architects, Amsterdam
3. Janet Rosenberg & Associates, Toronto
4. The Olin Studio, Philadelphia
5. Balmori Associates, New York

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What size of ha - ha fence along each side of that overpass would be needed to keep mountain sheep from leaping off onto the highway ?



Gene H | 1:13 PM on Monday Nov 29 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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Why aren't any of the finalists from Colorado? Do we really have to go to Philadelphia and Toronto and Europe to find somebody that's capable of designing a bridge with some trees on it? Sounds like a ridiculous waste of time and money to me.



LV B | 7:06 AM on Monday Nov 29 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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Animals are smart enough to learn where the "bridges" are. Look at the twin tunnels just before you reach Idaho Springs. That land bridge has been used successfully for years.



Marci B | 10:01 PM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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*yip cabbage wrote:*Two thoughts;

One, if an animal is down the road from the bridge an eighth of a mile, quarter mile, two miles etc., and wants to cross the road, is he going to cross, or, have the rational thought process to walk to the "bridge"?

Second, the bridge looks like a nice hunting area for the predator animals.....which would eventually move the prey to another crossing area.

The eyeball test says this looks like a loser for the most part, and one that will cost millions of mine and your earned money (taxes).

Two more thoughts:

you don't know more about animal migratory behavior than the experts do, despite the two minutes you invested in sharing your silly thoughts with us. bridges would be build to correspond with existing patterns, not inconveniently a mile down the road. that would just be stupid, wouldn't it?

second, you need to read the entire article next time. yes, all the way to the very end: "CDOT does not currently have money budgeted to build such a wildlife crossing."



gonz | 8:44 PM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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The only way this could possibly be practical is to keep the animals at grade and arc the highway up over ravines, etc. Elevate the traveling humans, not the animals.



Gene H | 3:29 PM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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While these structures may be new to Colorado, they have been in use in other countries and states for sometime now and are proposed in many states besides our own. Apparently, wildlife do use them and this serves two masters: wildlife safety and human safety by allowing animals to cross highways without risk of causing accidents that are harmful to both parties. This will be tax money well spent and should be part of highway engineering anytime they pass through wild areas.

[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes ... idges/522/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes...idges/522/)

greenleaf I Good post. Any one with an IQ above dirt knows they work well. Not perfect but a lot better than nothing. As you said other states and countries have had them for 10 or more years.



Jerry D | 3:29 PM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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Maybe our Governor Elect can hold a contest to design a wildlife crossing over the Rio Grande, with welcome signs pointing to sanctuary in Colorado on the US side.

That way any wildlife don't have to tunnel under the border or collide with any of those nasty border guards. They can cross on to the sanctuary unhindered.



James G | 3:16 PM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes ... idges/522/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes...idges/522/)



greenleaf I | 12:47 PM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)

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quarter mile, two miles etc., and wants to cross the road, is he going to cross, or, have the rational thought process to walk to the "bridge"?

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yip cabbage | 11:14 AM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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I gather that because we have not addressed this issue for forty years all of the wildlife has migrated to the Denver Zoo.

I'm sorry. But, this is pure hooey. The last post is correct.



ALLEN E H | 11:09 AM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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The pictures and concepts are imaginative and excite human interest, but, do wild animals use them? Don't most herd animals follow traditional migratory routes.



David J | 9:00 AM on Sunday Nov 28 | [Reply to this comment](#)



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