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## Design picked for Vail Pass overpass

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Sunday, January 23, 2011

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The winner of a contest to design a wildlife crossing over Interstate 70 at Vail Pass was announced Sunday at a conference in Washington, D.C. The design by HNTB with Michael Van Valkenburgh, of New York, above, was selected by a jury from five finalists. The announcement was made at the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board, and the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University is sponsoring the contest. "The project/team directed by HNTB+MVVA was unanimously identified as the most elegant and compelling solution. Their proposal was at once simple and straightforward, while embodying the complexity and contradictions inherent in the competition brief," the jurors said in their report. However, the Colorado Department of Transportation does not currently have money budgeted to build such a wildlife crossing.

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 **valleylv** Score: 0

10:31 AM on 1/24/2011

I-70 disrupted North/South animal movement from the day it opened, and the top of Vail Pass is probably one of the least used year round crossings. Wildlife management should happen at the front of disruptive human influences instead of waiting all of these years to put a band aid on our past invasions. The areas from Dowd Jct. to Glenwood Canyon are a huge impact to original migration corridors, and thank goodness for the tall fences, because even though they can no longer cross the valley, at least they don't die trying. A multi million dollar boondoggle on Vail Pass might help out a few introduced lynx, but at what expense?  
How about we buy open space for deer and elk downvalley where they have to winter?

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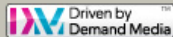
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9:30 AM on 1/24/2011

"However, the Colorado Department of Transportation does not currently have money budgeted to build such a wildlife crossing."

Thank you to the non-profit "Citizens Against Government Waste" for killing this wasteful and stupid project. Animals cross underneath I-70 just west of the narrows on Vail pass, and have been doing so for years.

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