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Bridging Futures 2013 Scholarship Contest

My model for the proposed animal crossing near the Price/Noble Creek interchange, of which I have provided rendering images of, demonstrates wildlife connectivity by embracing nature and quite literally covering the roadway with a blanket of natural vegetation and surroundings. This natural habitat will undoubtedly make the animals feel more at ease when crossing Interstate 90 in the Snoqualmie Pass region by surrounding them with familiar sights and smells as opposed to hard concrete and unhealthy car emissions. As the animals are guided to the crossing via the fences, the area won't seem so foreign to them due to the naturalization process that has taken place in order to plant trees, and indigenous shrubbery along the safe path to the opposite side of the freeway. This option is both safe for the animals and drivers across the state alike because it will prevent future auto-animal collisions from occurring throughout the Snoqualmie region. This crossing is also aesthetically appealing to passing motorists due to the large animal cutouts that I would like to have placed near the entrances to the tunnels so that the drivers and passengers have an idea of what is going on above them as they drive through the tunnel. For my model, I tried to impact the environment as little as possible, which is why I favored the idea of using a large area and planting it with local plants and trees to help with potential drainage issues; additionally, I tried to use and expose as little concrete as possible at the mouth of the tunnels, using just enough that seemed enough to provide the necessary structural support. The inspiration I held for the

project was simply creating something that wouldn't be an incredible eye sore to drivers, something that I would take pride in driving past during my numerous trips from the east side of the state to the west side of the state, and something that could safely transport the animals that needed to travel from one side of the freeway to the other. Another aspect that I would like to contribute as an idea to improve the overall appeal to the public would be to put into place one or two (if one for each direction of traffic would be desired) wildlife observation areas were to be put into place. Essentially I would envision a small rest area with picnic tables, but also have a special trail that goes from the parking lot up onto the animal crossing or just a small viewing area right off the parking lot to allow people the opportunity to see the animals use the crossing. I was unsure as to how the on/off ramps would work since the proposed site is already home to an interchange for recreational use; therefore the observation area wasn't included in my model. This model will hopefully contribute to the modernization project in the Snoqualmie Pass region of the state by increasing safety and notifying motorists of the measures being taken to ensure they're driving experience is less stressful and that the animals are being cared for in preventing their deaths in vehicle related incidents.