

WHEREAS, native wildlife populations are an integral part of Wyoming's natural environment, and serve as an indicator for the overall health of Wyoming's statewide ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, each year in the U.S. more than 200 people are killed in wildlife-vehicle collisions, 26,000 are injured and more than 1.5 million animals are hit on roads; and

WHEREAS, annually the average cost of property damage from these collisions is over \$ 1 billion and the total cost to society, such as in all resources used in responding, is nearly \$8.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, the success of wildlife movement and survival in Wyoming remains dependent upon continued public education and increased understanding of the essential role migration corridors play in safe wildlife passage; and

WHEREAS, wildlife watching is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities for residents and tourists in Wyoming,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW H. MEAD, GOVERNOR, to hereby proclaim the third week in September 2011, in the state of Wyoming, as:

## WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE AWARENESS WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011.

Matthew H. Mead Governor