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MATERIALS & RESEARCH DIVISION

R E S E A R C H U P D A T E

SUBJECT: "SWAREFLEX" Wildlife Reflectors

REFERENCE: WP 86-R-9, & Update No. 87-3 dated Jan. 29, 1987

HISTORY: In October of 1986 Evaluation of Swareflex Wildlife Reflectors, designed to prevent nighttime deer/vehicle collisions, was begun on Vt 64 "Mill Hill". Selection of areas to be protected, design theory, and research method were reported in Update 87-3.

STATUS: After one winter (1986/87) the following data has been obtained:

Crossing Information-Ave. per night/per inspection

Inspections	Protected Areas	Unprotected Areas	Total
7	4	4	8

Deer/Vehicle Collision Information

Daytime	Unknown		Nighttime		Total
	Protected	Unprotected	Protected	Unprotected	
1	1	1	3	1	7

Two of the deer were struck at night within one 350' long area which has reflectors on both sides. Both deer were struck in approximately the same location. The total length of protected areas showing evidence of crossings is 2500'. The total length of unprotected areas showing evidence of crossings is 10,000'. Crossing density is 4 to 1 protected vs. unprotected. The ratio of nighttime collisions in protected areas vs. unprotected areas is 3 to 1 but the "Time of Day Unknown" collisions could change this to 4 to 2, 4 to 1 or 3 to 2, so no conclusions can yet be drawn about the effectiveness of the reflectors.

A field inspection on May 28, 1987 revealed 5 missing reflectors. Two have been recovered, broken. Two appear to have been damaged due to collision. One post is also missing.

PROJECTION: The number of deer/vehicle contacts is still too small to be statistically significant. The area will remain under observation and the project will continue until such time as reasonable conclusions can be drawn.

DIST: ABDEF;DTA6