

322 ANIMAL SIGNING

Conflicts between vehicles and animals on State highways involve many different types of animals ranging from livestock and wild game to wild horses and burros. These conflicts tend to be localized within regions. If every specific location in the State were signed, motorists would see many non-vehicular (animal) warning signs along the highway but relatively few animals, and the signs tend to lose their effectiveness. Therefore, to maintain an effective warning sign system, the use of animal warning signs shall be limited to those locations with a history of animal accidents or where the Regional Traffic Engineer documents that such a sign is needed. A traffic engineering evaluation shall document the need, location, type of animal warning sign, and appropriate distance plaque to be erected.

Distance plaques bearing NEXT XX MILES should be installed beneath animal warning signs. The lengths displayed on the plaques should be in multiples of five miles. The spacing of successive signs on sections more than 20 miles long may be 5, 10 or 20 miles, depending on local conditions.

Variable message signs or other innovative signing approaches may be considered where an unusually high number of animal/vehicle conflicts have been documented.