



EL DORADO COUNTY

Fish & Wildlife Commission

Are Wildlife Crossings Necessary and Do They Really Work?



Crossing structures where highways intersect with animal traffic increase both motorist safety and safe passage for wildlife. In many Western states, the departments of Transportation and Fish & Wildlife are collaborating to reduce the cost and danger of wildlife-vehicle-collisions (WVCs) on their highways. [1](#), [2](#)

A box culvert undercrossing near Placerville on Hwy 50

Information on wildlife vehicle collisions (WVCs) with reference links

- There are 1-2 million WVCs with large animals per year [3](#)
- WVCs cost \$8,388,000,000 annually in the U.S. [3](#)
 - a. Averaged cost of a deer collision (moose and elk result in higher costs) [3](#)
 - \$1,840 in vehicle repair costs.
 - \$2,702 in medical costs.
 - \$125 in towing and law enforcement services.
 - \$2,000 for the monetary value of the animal.
 - \$50 for carcass removal and disposal.
- Advantages of wildlife crossing structures [4](#), [5](#)
 - a. Increased motorist safety
 - b. Protection of wildlife migration patterns across landscape

- Types of crossing structures [6, 7](#)
 - a. Enlarged culverts for small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects
 - b. Stream culverts for amphibians, reptiles, fish and small mammals
 - c. Box culvert undercrossing
 - d. Overcrossing
 - e. Vegetation, boulders, logs placed in or on crossing structure for cover
- Support for wildlife crossing structures
 - a. Federal Agency Programs [8, 9, 10](#)
 - b. California State SB/AB 129 [11, 12](#)
 - c. **11/15/21:** H.R.3684 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [13, 14](#)

[CDFW REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT STRATEGIES PROGRAM](#)



[CALTRANS WILDLIFE CROSSING/CONNECTIVITY](#)



UC DAVIS [ROAD ECOLOGY CENTER](#) has a database of animals killed on California roads and highways. If you wish to contribute to the roadkill database, you can enter observations to [CALIFORNIA ROADKILL OBSERVATION SYSTEM \(CROS\)](#)



References

- 1) CA CONNECTIVITY MAP <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Connectivity/CEHC>
- 2) NV CROSSINGS INCREASE SAFETY <https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/once-seen-as-frivolous-state-officials-view-wildlife-crossings-as-a-way-to-save-bucks-and-drivers>
- 3) FHA 2008 EXECUTIVE REPORT <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/08034/>
- 4) HIGHWAY CROSSING STRUCTURES FOR WILDLIFE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING DRIVER AND ANIMAL SAFETY (2021) https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr271/psw_gtr271.pdf
- 5) ARC - WILDLIFE CROSSINGS REDUCE COSTS AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY <https://arc-solutions.org/article/wildlife-crossings-reduce-costs-improve-public-safety-report-says/>
- 6) WILDLIFE CROSSING STRUCTURE HANDBOOK (2011) https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/ctip/wildlife_crossing_structures/

- 7) INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF EFFECTIVE WILDLIFE OVERPASSES (2021) https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr267/psw_gtr267.pdf
 - 8) DEPT OF INTERIOR SECRETARY ORDER 3362 <https://wafwa.org/so3362/>
 - 9) AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT 2019 (ATIA) <https://www.capito.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/ATIA%20-%20Summary.pdf>
 - 10) DOI SO3362 CALIFORNIA STATE ACTION PLAN 2020 <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/California2020SAP.pdf>
 - 11) SB/AB 129 (JUL 2021) <https://californianewstimes.com/california-lawmakers-approve-more-than-60-million-budget-to-fund-wildlife-crossing-projects/430549/>
 - 12) SB/AB 129 (JUL 2021) <https://www.planetizen.com/news/2021/07/114157-california-wildlife-crossings-get-new-funding>
 - 13) H.R.3684 - INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (2021) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3684/>
 - 14) H.R.3684 - \$350 M FOR WILDLIFE CROSSINGS <https://arc-solutions.org/article/dedicated-funding/>
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