

Proposed Recommended Terminology for ICOET2011 Presentations, Papers and Posters

Standardized terminology clarifies study results and allows greater comparison between studies. Please use the following recommended terminology in ICOET 2011 presentations, papers and posters.

1. Describe wildlife or aquatic crossing structures from the animal's perspective rather than the driver's perspective, using the modifier 'wildlife' or 'aquatic' where appropriate to help clarify the perspective.

Example:

"Our study investigated the effect of vegetation at the entrances of wildlife underpasses".

2. Describe wildlife or aquatic crossing structure dimensions in a consistent format, especially in tables.

a. Describe span (width) first, then rise (height). Span and rise are standard engineering terms that reduce perspective confusion.

b. Label all numbers with dimension and unit. Use both metric and English units, with metric units first.

Examples:

"The box culvert is 6.1 m (20') span x 2.4 m (8') rise."

"The bridge has a 6.1 m span by 3.0 m rise (20' x 10') at low water level."

3. Use the term 'length' when referring to the distance of a wildlife underpass or overpass perpendicular to the road.

Example:

"The elliptical culvert is divided into two lengths by the open median."

4. Describe measurements of structures of varying spans using the largest measurement. Further clarification in the text may be needed for V-shaped structures or asymmetrical shapes. Measure rises from the center of the structure.

Examples:

"The span of the arch culvert is 7.6 m (25')."

"The bridge's rise varies from 2.4 m (8') at water's edge to 1 m (3.1') at the top of the abutments."

5. Carefully distinguish underpasses, culverts, bridges and fences because terminology is easily confused. The term 'underpass' is a general term that includes several structure types such as culverts and bridges. Where practical, include the type of underpass such as 'Bridge Underpass' and 'Culvert Underpass' instead of using only the term 'underpass'.

Examples:

"Two types of wildlife underpasses occur in the project area: bridges and pipe-arch culverts."

"We investigated four techniques to reduce bridge underpass noise."

6. Describe culvert shape, size and construction materials where possible because they are important for functionality of fauna passages.

Examples:

"I measured the effectiveness of three arch culverts and one concrete box culvert for seasonal passage by snakes."

"Round corrugated metal culverts in the study area all span 1 m (39")."

7. Differentiate between right-of-way fencing and fencing designed for wildlife, and describe dimensions and materials.

Example:

"Wildlife fencing in the study area is 2.4 m (8') high and constructed of woven wire".

8. Define categories when using relative terms where no standard categories exist, including wildlife crossing structure sizes, traffic volume, and roadkill (carcass or crash data).

Example:

"Roadkill carcass data in this study were defined as high (>5 per km per year), moderate (2-5 per km per year), and low (<2 per km per year)."

"Traffic volumes were high (>10,000 ADT) on State Route 50 within the study area."

9. Define the term 'effectiveness'.

Example:

"In this experiment, an effective escape ramp was defined as one that produced less than 1 minute of hesitation prior to jumping out in 50% of the animals tested."

ICOET Steering Committee. Sandra Jacobson June 11, 2010