

NCEL Summary: States Advance 2019 Legislation for Wildlife Corridors and Crossings

At least ten states are considering legislation regarding fish and wildlife crossings and corridors:

- **New Mexico:** [SB 228](#) would require a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan to be developed to provide guidance for identifying, prioritizing, and maintaining areas for wildlife movement. It would appropriate \$500k for crossings.
- **New Hampshire:** [SB 200](#) recognizes wildlife corridors and habitat strongholds as a public good. Corridors and crossings would be eligible for funding under the Community Heritage and Investment Program; and the transportation department must consider fish and wildlife crossings and mitigation in road/culvert projects.
- **Mississippi:** [SB 2431](#) and [SB 2266](#) would direct the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Department of Transportation to identify existing and needed wildlife corridors. [bills killed in committee]
- **Oregon:** [HB 2834](#) would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to study and develop a Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Action Plan to implement wildlife corridors.
 - [SB 583](#) would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct a study regarding potential benchmarks for designation and protection of wildlife corridors.
 - [HB 2020](#), the Cap and Invest Act, would create a Climate Investment Fund which could be used in part for “enhancement and protection of wildlife corridors.”
- **Virginia:** [HB 2331](#) would create a Wildlife Corridor Action Plan to assess the connections between core habitat areas, list potential projects to improve connections, provide an action plan to complete these projects, and set up an advisory council. [bill died in House Rules]
- **Wyoming:** [HB 228](#) would appropriate \$5 million for a transportation department study of vehicle collisions with big game animals, big game animals killed or injured along railroad; and would authorize wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation system. [died on last day of session]
- **Washington:** [HB 2055](#) would require the Fish and Wildlife Department to cooperatively explore with tribes and others the viability of wildlife corridor and safe crossing projects to reduce elk-vehicle collisions in the North Cascades area.
- **California:** [SB 45](#) The Wildfire, Drought and Flood Protection Bond Act is a \$4 billion bond bill that includes funding for wildlife and habitat, including wildlife corridors (Chapter 9).
 - [SB 73](#) – State budget bill contains \$15m for wildlife corridor infrastructure projects.
- **Maine:** [HP 678](#) would authorize a \$5 million bond issue for a grant program to upgrade municipal culverts at stream crossings “in order to enhance and restore rivers, streams and fish and wildlife habitats” and prepare for extreme storms and floods.
- **Pennsylvania** (in drafting, similar to 2016 New Hampshire [SB 376](#) corridor bill that required a study of corridors and crossings with a [report](#) to the legislature).

For more information and the latest developments on wildlife corridors and legislation, see ncel.net/conservation. If you are interested in advancing a wildlife corridor measure, please contact [Ruth Musgrave](#) or [Michael Streight](#) at NCEL.