



Crossing Ledges



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Culverts underneath a highway carry drainage such as creeks from one side to the other, and can provide a safe way for wildlife to cross the road. However, too much water flowing through a culvert can prevent animal movement, especially by smaller animals. Impassable culverts can make these animals susceptible to predators and can isolate populations of the animals, reducing their genetic sustainability.

One solution to this problem is to provide a small ledge in the culvert, above typical high water levels. Pictured on this card is a Preble's meadow jumping mouse using a crossing ledge in a culvert under U.S. Highway 36 in northern Colorado. A camera activated by a motion detector recorded this successful crossing by this specimen of the threatened species.

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