



International Conference on Ecology and Transportation

ICOET 2013 • Canyons, Crossroads, Connections

June 23-27, 2013 | The Westin Kierland | Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

International Conference on Ecology and Transportation
c/o Center for Transportation and the Environment
NC State University, Box 8601, Raleigh, NC 27695-8601
919-515-8893 phone | 919-515-8898 fax | www.icoet.net

Debra Nelson, New York State DOT, Conference Chair
Mary E. Gray, Parsons Corporation, Program Chair
Todd Williams, Arizona DOT, Host State Representative
Ray Schweinsburg, Arizona GFD, Host State Representative

Dear Media Professional,

Thank you for your interest in ICOET. This media packet contains the following resources:

1. Press Release for the ICOET 2013 conference at The Westin Kierland in Scottsdale, Arizona. ICOET 2013 is conducted in partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation and Arizona Game and Fish Department.
2. Program Events of Interest – a listing of selected sessions and other events of interest in the ICOET 2013 conference program.
3. Conference History – a brief description of the establishment and development of ICOET.

Members of the media are invited to attend ICOET 2013. Please direct your inquiries and interview requests to:

- Ryan Harding, Office of Public Information, Arizona Department of Transportation
800-949-8057 (ADOT media line), news@azdot.gov
- Tom Cadden, Office of Public Information, Arizona Game and Fish Department
623-236-7392 (office), tcadden@azgfd.gov

Links to downloadable images for use online and in print are available on the ICOET website under the 'Media Kit' tab at www.icoet.net.

For additional information regarding ICOET, feel free to contact me by phone or email. We hope to see you at the conference!

Best regards,

E. Eugene Murray, ICOET Conference Planner
Center for Transportation and the Environment
North Carolina State University
919-515-8037 (office), 919-418-7934 (mobile)
eugene_murray@ncsu.edu

ICOET is supported by: USDOT Federal Highway Administration • US Army Corps of Engineers • US Environmental Protection Agency • US Fish and Wildlife Service • USDA Forest Service • Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, Montana, New York State, Vermont, and Washington State Departments of Transportation • Arizona Game and Fish Department • California Department of Fish and Game • Road Ecology Center, University of California at Davis • Western Transportation Institute, Montana State University • The Conservation Fund • The Humane Society of the United States • The Nature Conservancy • ARCADIS • Parsons Corporation • British Columbia Ministry of Transportation, Canada • Trafikverket / The Swedish Transport Administration • Infra Eco Network of Europe • Transportation Research Board Committee on Ecology and Transportation • Center for Transportation and the Environment, NC State University • and additional sponsors and partner organizations.



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FOR RELEASE JUNE 17, 2013

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International Conference on Ecology and Transportation comes to the ‘Grand Canyon State’

Raleigh, NC – Over 350 transportation professionals and researchers from around the world will convene at The Westin Kierland in Scottsdale, Arizona from June 23 – 27, 2013 for the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET). John S. Halikowski, director of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), and Larry D. Voyles, director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), are scheduled to kick off the conference on Monday, June 24 at 8:30 a.m. Karla Petty, Arizona division administrator for the U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration will also welcome conference participants to the ‘Grand Canyon State’ during the Monday morning opening session.

Held every two years, ICOET provides a forum for professionals to gather and share quality research and best management practices, address current issues, and find solutions to transportation and ecological concerns. This year’s conference theme is “Canyons, Crossroads, Connections.” Focus areas for the conference include wildlife, fisheries, wetlands, water quality and overall ecosystems as it relates to surface transportation development. The 2013 conference program includes nearly 30 different educational sessions, featuring more than 150 technical papers and poster presentations from transportation ecologists, biologists, highway planners, resource managers, and engineers from 21 countries and Tribal Nations.

Pioneering conservation biologist Dr. Michael Soulé, and Arizona conservationist John Graham, President and CEO of Sunbelt Holdings in Scottsdale, Arizona, will deliver keynote addresses on Monday, June 24, and Tuesday, June 25. Conference co-hosts ADOT and AGFD on Wednesday, June 26, will lead participants on three field trips to visit active and recently completed construction projects that include ecological investments. Field trips will examine the exceptional work by ADOT, AGFD, and their regional partner organizations to implement safety and connectivity solutions along Arizona State Route 260; waterway and context sensitive improvements in the city of Sedona; and sustainability and preservation efforts at Grand Canyon National Park. ICOET 2013 program activities run Sunday, June 23 – Thursday, June 27 with event topics and times varying throughout each day. Advance or on-site registration is required to attend.

ICOET is administered by the Center for Transportation and the Environment located at North Carolina State University. The conference is supported and co-sponsored by several federal and state government agencies, non-profit organizations, and corporate partners. For more information, visit www.icoet.net.

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PROGRAM EVENTS OF INTEREST

Events to be held at The Westin Kierland
6902 East Greenway Parkway, Scottsdale, Arizona, Telephone: 1-480-624-1000

Members of the media are asked to contact the following persons if you wish to attend these or other ICOET events:

- Ryan Harding, Office of Public Information, Arizona Department of Transportation 800-949-8057 (ADOT media line), news@azdot.gov
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Sunday, June 23, 2013, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Session 100: Random Acts or Global Agenda? A Strategic Discussion on Research for Ecology and Transportation

This discussion-based workshop will help familiarize ICOET participants with the context of current research, how it comes to be and what are the important priorities, needs, gaps and trends. This workshop will seek input from participants on what would be the most useful future directions. The ultimate objective is to offer input to various efforts where research is supported (i.e. ICOET, IENE, TRB, AASHTO, CEDR, etc.) to help identify and promote work in areas of mutual interest in a strategic manner.

Monday, June 24, 2013, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Opening remarks by ICOET officials and invited speakers including John S. Halikowski, director of the Arizona Department of Transportation; Larry D. Voyles, director of the Arizona Game and Fish Department; and Karla Petty, Arizona division administrator for the US DOT Federal Highway Administration.

Monday, June 24, 2013, Noon – 1:15 PM

Keynote Speaker Luncheon with Michael E. Soulé, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Dr. Michael Soulé is best known for his pioneering work in conservation biology. He was a founder and first president of the Society for Conservation Biology and the Wildlands Network, and is currently its vice president for science. Dr. Soulé has written and edited nine books on biology, conservation biology, and the social and policy context of conservation and has published over 175 articles on population and evolutionary biology, fluctuating asymmetry, population genetics, island biogeography, environmental studies, biodiversity policy, nature conservation, and ethics. He continues to do research on ecosystem regulation by strongly interactive (keystone) species, speaks and writes on ethics and conservation, serves on the boards of several conservation organizations, and consults internationally on nature protection.



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Monday, June 24 and Tuesday, June 25, 2013, 3:30 – 5:30 PM each day

Poster Sessions 1 and 2

Over 70 researchers and practitioners will be on hand to present and discuss their work in an informal, one-on-one setting. These are plenary sessions for all conference participants to attend.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013, 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Session 204: Resolution of Wildlife-Highway Conflicts in Arizona: Challenges, Solutions, Partnerships, and Politics

Over the last decade, Arizona has produced a series of innovative projects that seek to resolve highway-wildlife conflicts. Beginning with an overview of statewide efforts, this panel session will then focus on Pima County, Arizona, where a regional conservation plan and a unique local funding source totaling \$45 million are protecting Sonoran Desert wildlife linkages. This funding is being used for the construction of wildlife linkage infrastructure along major regional roadways, new research, and monitoring. A diverse selection of agency, jurisdictional, and nongovernmental representatives will discuss two of these projects along State Routes 77 and 86, addressing challenges and lessons learned.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013, Noon – 1:15 PM

Keynote Speaker Luncheon with John W. Graham, President and CEO, Sunbelt Holdings, Scottsdale, Arizona and Board of Directors, The Nature Conservancy in Arizona

Sunbelt Holdings is involved in a wide variety of real estate activities in the southwestern United States including development of land, commercial properties, and award-winning master planned communities. Under Mr. Graham's direction as its president since 1990, Sunbelt has become a dominant force in both community affairs and real estate activities. Mr. Graham's commitment to conservation efforts is demonstrated through active affiliations with many community and national groups including The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI). He is former chair of the ULI Arizona District Council, and past chair of the TNC Arizona Board of Directors. In 2009, he received TNC Arizona's Oakleaf Award for Support of Conservation.

Tuesday, June 25, 2013, 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Session 212: Landscape and Legacy: Integrated Strategies for Resource Protection, Transportation and Stewardship at Grand Canyon National Park

This case study follows planning, design and construction processes utilized to resolve pressing transportation issues at Grand Canyon's South Rim. The goal of solving transportation issues was achieved; unanticipated, however, was how this transportation 'fix' evolved into a legacy project that fundamentally changed how millions of visitors experience the Grand Canyon. From the perspectives of a Project Manager, Horticulturalist, Artist and Contractor learn how holistic transportation solutions can increase user capacity and efficiency while enhancing landscape environments; use of native materials can inspire beautiful, enduring designs; and, collaboration between contractors, artists, engineers and resource specialists results in high quality outcomes.



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Wednesday, June 26, 2013, 7:30 – 9:00 PM

Session 300: Highway Wilding: A Documentary Film

This 22-minute documentary looks at some of the pioneering solutions that exist to prevent road kill and reconnect landscapes across highways. In the Rocky Mountains we have one of the last best chances in the world to maintain a fully functioning ecosystem with all the native large carnivores, but roads are a major problem. Everything from grizzly bears to wolverines and ducks to salamanders need to get across roads safely for breeding, to find food, adapt to climate change, or to migrate. The film screening will be followed by a panel discussion including the filmmaker and road ecology researchers featured in, or involved with, the creation of the film.

Thursday, June 27, 2013, 10:30 AM – Noon

Session 404: Lanes, Landscape and Life: Integrated Transportation Planning for Eco-Conscious Highways

This session will examine the ways that the large-scale approaches offered through the U.S. Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Eco-Logical approach and the Western Governors' Association's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) can inform transportation decision-making and conserve critical environmental resources and will draw connections between the related efforts. The session will feature a panel of experts and will inform attendees of the ways in which they can become involved in Eco-Logical and CHAT, as well as the resources and technical support available. Discussion with panelists will address the potential for both initiatives to work collaboratively and efficiently.



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CONFERENCE HISTORY

Highway construction and use can negatively impact wildlife and aquatic ecosystems through habitat loss and alteration, ecosystem fragmentation, and direct mortality. State departments of transportation, the U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and other concerned agencies and organizations have recognized the significance of these effects, and are making substantial strides toward new approaches and technologies to avoid or reduce the impacts. Part of this effort includes the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, a biennial conference that addresses ecological issues in the areas of wildlife, fisheries, wetlands, water quality, and overall ecosystems management as it relates to surface transportation development.

In 1996, a group of dedicated ecologists working in the area of transportation ecology established the first International Conference on Wildlife Ecology and Transportation (ICOWET). Held in Orlando, Florida, and hosted by the Florida Department of Transportation, FHWA, U.S. Forest Service, and Defenders of Wildlife, this conference brought together ecologists, highway planners, resource managers, and engineers to present and discuss new issues and research that addressed the ecological impacts of highways and other transportation systems.

In 2001, ICOWET merged with a national wetlands conference known as Connections: Transportation, Wetlands, and the Natural Environment, hosted by the Washington State Department of Transportation, FHWA, and others. The combined conference was renamed the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation (ICOET), and is now regarded as the primary forum for introducing research innovations and concepts that form many standards of practice in the field.

ICOET draws official sponsorship from multiple government agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations. Each conference event generates more than 150 technical presentations and posters from more than 20 nations, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and the countries that comprise the Infra Eco Network of Europe. Attendance at ICOET has grown to more than 500 participants. The conference produces a full proceedings of technical papers and poster abstracts (available on the Web and CD-ROM), which serve as the basis for practical solutions to transportation-related ecological issues.

For more information about ICOET, contact conference planning Eugene Murray with the Center for Transportation and the Environment at North Carolina State University, 919-515-8037 (office), 919-418-7934 (mobile), eugene_murray@ncsu.edu.