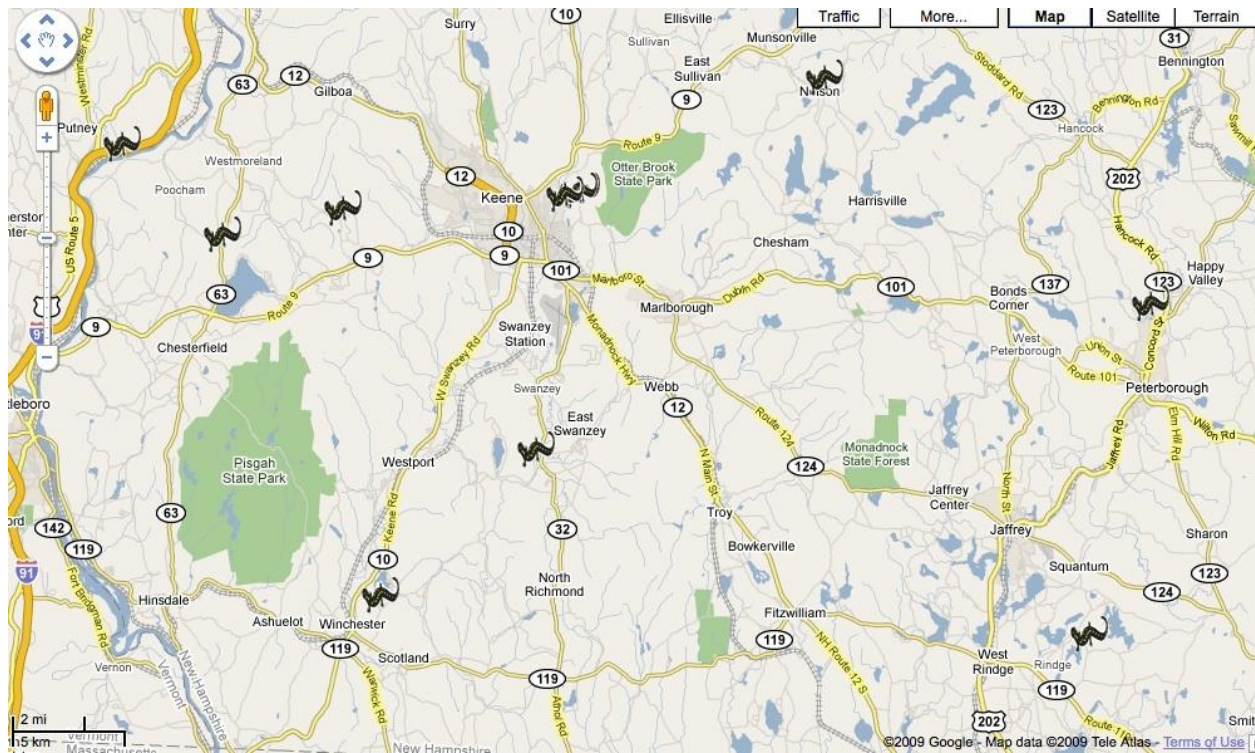


GUIDELINES FOR LOCATING AMPHIBIAN ROAD CROSSINGS

AVEO knows of ten major amphibian road crossings in the Monadnock region; we need your help to find more! When it comes to designation as an official crossing site for AVEO's Salamander Crossing Brigades, traffic volume



matters as much as amphibian movement – we are looking for places where volunteer efforts to cross and count amphibians will make a difference (rarely-traveled dirt roads need not apply!) but where traffic isn't so fast or frequent as to endanger our volunteers (no four-lane highways!) The information you collect will help us decide where to concentrate new volunteer efforts, and may ultimately inform wildlife-friendly transportation and conservation planning in southwest New Hampshire.



Known amphibian crossing sites in the Monadnock region. Visit www.aveo.org for more detailed information.



adapted from materials developed by the North Branch Nature Center

TIPS FOR ROAD SURVEYS

1. **Watch the weather.** If you've signed up for our e-newslist, you will receive an email when conditions seem right for a migration. Bottom line: if the snowpack has melted, nighttime temperature is above 40° F, and it's one of the first rainy nights in spring, amphibians are likely to be on the move.
2. **Watch the clock.** Go out just after sundown, once the amphibians have had a chance to get going. As long as it's raining steadily, the salamanders and frogs will keep moving well into the night, so you can decide for yourself when it's quitting time!
3. **Where to go?** Visit [AVEO's online map of amphibian crossings](#) to find potential crossing sites, based on anecdotal reports of amphibian activity. We also encourage you to look for new sites! Roads near wetlands are a good place to start.
4. **Bring a friend.** You'll need at least two people to scout safely -- one to drive, and the other to scan the road for frogs and salamanders. Once at a crossing, it's also helpful to divvy up data recording and amphibian shuttling tasks.
5. **Drive slowly** – about 15 mph, slower if amphibians are present – to look for sites, and do not attempt surveys on extremely busy roads. (It is too dangerous!)
6. **Keep your windows open** at all times as you drive. The “quack” of wood frogs might be the first sign that you're near a breeding pool.
7. **Scan the whole road** for frogs and salamanders, both live and dead. You'll see frogs and toads leaping or sitting still, impersonating tiny, tipped-up pyramids. Salamanders will look like sticks with one upturned end. They are often stunned by headlights, and may not move until you come to them.
8. Once you locate a good crossing spot (“good” = multiple casualties and/or live amphibians), **pull over to the side of the road.** *Make sure your car is off the road and easily visible from behind. If possible, don't park directly in front of a house. (This can make homeowners understandably uncomfortable.)* If you can, park away from the crossing and walk in to avoid inadvertently squashing amphibians. *Be sure to check under your car for critters before you leave.*
9. Fill out the front side of the **data sheet.** Be sure to include start & end time, temperature, and weather information. Also be sure to include a **map** (handrawn is fine; Google Map is too!) with the crossing site clearly marked. *If you are prepared for being on the road (reflective vest, flashlight, raingear),* move live animals in the direction they were headed and keep count, by species, on your data sheet. One data sheet per site, please.
10. **Send the data sheets,** along with maps and any photos, to thelen@harriscenter.org or AVEO at the Harris Center for Conservation Education, 83 Kings Highway, Hancock, NH. **Email** is strongly preferred.



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