

**Forest Service Handbook  
National Headquarters - Washington Office  
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 6609.15 – Standards for Data and Data Structures Handbook  
Chapter 20 – Standard Terms and Definitions**

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**Approved by:** F. Dale Robertson, Chief

**Date approved:**

**Responsible Staff:**

**Last Change:**

**Superseded Document(s):**

**Digest:** Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

**6609.15:** Establishes a new Handbook, FSH 6609.15, Standards for Data and Data Structures Handbook. Chapter 10, Database Naming Standards, is reserved. Chapter 20 covers Standard Terms and Definitions for the integrated data environment.

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## **21.18 - Wildlife/Fish Theme**

The Wildlife/Fish theme organizes information about terrestrial and aquatic species and their habitat interpretations. It includes the Habitat Components and Special Habitats features.

### **21.18a - Wildlife/Fish Features**

Habitat Components. Special components of fish and wildlife habitat (for example, elk wallows, migration corridors, spawning beds, strutting grounds, nest sites).

Special Habitats. Habitats of special interest (for example, threatened and endangered species habitat).

### **21.18b - Wildlife Attributes**

No attributes unique to this Theme were identified. Many attributes are found in Constructed Features and Water Themes. Many attributes will be regional or local in nature.

## **21.2 - Cultural Component**

The Cultural Component organizes information about contemporary, historic, and prehistoric human-made features of the environment, as well as the social and demographic characteristics of society. It contains the Constructed Features (Transportation), Constructed Features (Utilities), Constructed Features (Buildings/Other), Constructed Features (Developed Sites), Recreation Setting, Historic and Prehistoric and Socio-Economic themes.

### **21.21 - Constructed Features (Transportation) Theme**

The Constructed Features (Transportation) theme organizes information about facilities related to ground, air and water transportation systems (for example, roads, canals). It includes the Airfield, Bridge, Culvert, Ford, Heliport, Helispot, Railroad, Ramp, Road and Trail features.

#### **21.21a - Constructed Features (Transportation) Features**

Airfield. An airport having hard-surfaced runways where aircraft can take off and land.

Bridge. A structure spanning and providing passage over a waterway, railroad, or other obstacle.

Culvert. A sewer or drain crossing under a road or embankment.

Ford. A shallow place in a body of water, such as a river, where a crossing can be made on foot, on horseback, or in a vehicle.

Heliport. An airport for helicopters.

Helispot. An area of ground prepared for the landing of helicopters.

Railroad. A road composed of parallel steel rails supported by ties and providing a track for locomotive-drawn trains and other rolling stock.

Ramp. An inclined passage or roadway connecting different levels, as of a building or a road.

Road. An open way, generally public, for the passage of vehicles, persons, and animals.

Trail. A blazed path or beaten track, as through woods or wilderness.

### **21.21b - Constructed Features (Transportation) Attributes**

Constructed (Transportation) features have one or more of the following attributes:

Airfield/Airport Descriptors. Services, facilities and characteristics of an airport or airfield.

#### **1. Valid Values.**

Designated uses

##### **a. Smoke jumper base**

(1) Capacity

##### **b. Tanker base**

(1) Concentrate storage capacity

(a) Dry

(b) Wet

(2) Mixed capacity

(3) No. of retardant fill stations

(4) Ownership

(5) Retardant type

Elevation (Feet)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Designator

Fuel Available (Y or N)

Fuel Grade

Instrument Landing System (Y or N)

Landing Surface Dimension

a. Length (Feet)

b. Width (Feet)

Lights

a. Beacon

b. Runway

Load Bearing Strength (No./Sq. In.)

a. Single Wheel

b. Dual

c. Dual Tandem

Location (Latitude/Longitude)

Name

Night Operations (Y or N)

Ownership

Runway Surface Condition

a. Excellent

b. Very Good

c. Good

d. Poor

Runway surface type

a. Asphalt

b. Concrete

c. Gravel

d. Packed Dirt

e. Sod

Season of Use

Strip Markers

- a. Boundary
- b. End Strip
- c. Threshold

Telephone No.

Travel Time from Community

Type

- a. Fixed Wing
- b. Helicopter

UNICOM Frequency

Wind Indicator

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Not Applicable.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, Advisory Circular 150.

Bridge Attributes. Information about bridge characteristics, conditions, and maintenance.

1. Valid Values. See "Recording and coding guide for the structure inventory and appraisal of the nation's bridges."
2. Units. See Source.
3. Example. Golden Gate Bridge located in San Francisco, CA.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. 1988. Recording and coding guide for the structure inventory and appraisal of the nation's bridges. Federal Highway Administration.

Critical Vehicle. The largest vehicle that can safely traverse a transportation facility under restricted conditions of speed, clearance, or loading.

1. Valid Values.

Configuration

Dimensions (length, width, height)

Weight (total, axle)

2. Units. Feet and inches, pounds.

3. Example. Semi with 18K axles, self-powered yarder, and so forth.

4. Source for Data Standard.

FSH 7709.56, Road Preconstruction Handbook, chapter 4.

FSH 7709.55, Transportation Planning Handbook.

Culvert Length. Distance along centerline of the invert of the culvert.

1. Valid Values. Not Applicable.

2. Units. Feet.

3. Example. 41-foot-long culvert.

4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 52.

Culvert Material. Primary material from which the culvert is made.

1. Valid Values.

Cast in Place Concrete

Corrugated Aluminum

Corrugated Steel

Other

Plastic

Precast Concrete

Structural Aluminum Plate

Structural Steel Plate

Treated Timber

Untreated Timber (logs)

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Corrugated Steel culvert.
4. Source for Data Standard. Common terminology.

Culvert Size. Inside diameter of round culverts. Other culverts are measured by rise and span.

1. Valid Values.

Round Pipe: XX.X ft. diameter

Other: XX.X rise by XX.X span

2. Units. Feet and tenths of feet.
3. Example. 1.5 ft. culvert; 5 ft. x 10 ft. box culvert.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Numbers 54, 55, 56.

Culvert Type. Shape of culvert cross-section.

1. Valid Values.

Arch

Box w/Bottom

High Profile Arch

Horizontal Ellipse

Inverted Pear

Long Span Arch

Low Profile Arch

Open-Bottom Box

Other

Pipe Arch

Round or Elongated Pipe

Vertical Ellipse

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Round Pipe.



4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 43.

Date of Last Inspection. Calendar date when bridge or major culvert was last inspected.

1. Valid Values. Months/days/years (mmddyy).
2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. 102689.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 90.

Design Speed - Roads. The speed determined for design and correlation of the physical features of a road or road segment that influence vehicle operation. The maximum safe speed that the design vehicle can maintain over a specified segment of a road when conditions are so favorable that the design features of the road, rather than operational limitations of the vehicle, govern. The design speed is the safe speed for the design situation only. For low-speed, low-standard roads, the design speed is often a result of the design process rather than a given criterion.

1. Valid Values. Not Applicable.
2. Units. Miles per hour (MPH).
3. Example. Design speed for the Divide Road is 20 MPH.
4. Source for Data Standard.

FSH 7709.56, Road Preconstruction Handbook, chapter 4.

FSH 7709.55, Transportation Planning Handbook.

Design Storm. The magnitude, duration, and frequency of a surface runoff event that a structure is designed to contain.

1. Valid Values. Amount per unit time per interval.
2. Units.

Length of storm - hours

Recurrence interval - years

Runoff - inches

3. Example. 50 yr/.5 hr/1.3 in.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Design Criteria USS Handbook Watershed Improvement. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Atlas II (for each State).

Design Vehicle(s) - Roads. The vehicle(s) that frequently use the road determine the minimum standard for a particular design element.

1. Valid Values. See "Vehicle Type."
2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Log Truck.
4. Source for Data Standard.

FSH 7709.56, Road Preconstruction Handbook, chapter 4.

FSH 7709.55, Transportation Planning Handbook.

Development Status. Indicates whether the route has already been constructed or is planned for construction.

1. Valid Values.

<u>Value</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Planned	Not yet built
Existing	Built

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Route xx is existing.
4. Source for Data Standard. National Forest Management Act of 1976, section 8; 16 U.S.C. 1608 (for roads).

Feature Crossed. Kind of physical feature crossed by facility.

1. Valid Values.

Lake  
Railroad  
Road  
Stream  
Trail

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Goose Creek, L&N Railroad.

4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 6.

Functional Class - Roads. The way a road serves land and resource management needs and the character of service provided.

1. Valid Values.

<u>Value</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Arterial	Provides service to large land areas and usually connects with other arterial roads or public highways.
Collector	Provides service to large land areas and usually connects with other arterial roads or public highways.
Local	Local roads connecting terminal facilities, such as log landings and recreation sites, with Forest collector or arterial roads, or with public highways.

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Arterial Road.

4. Source for Data Standard. FSH 7709.55, Transportation Planning Handbook.

Highway Safety Act Applicability. Roads open to public travel by passenger cars are subject to provisions of the Highway Safety Act, per Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Highway Administration (see Source).

1. Valid Values.

Road subject to Highway Safety Act  
Road excluded from the Act

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Highway Safety Act: Applicable.

4. Source for Data Standard.

FSM 7731.11, Strategies.

FSM 1535, Memorandum of Understanding on Highway Safety Program Standards.

Inspection Frequency. How often a bridge or major culvert needs to be checked for condition and/or load rating.

1. Valid Values. Not Applicable.

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Biannual Condition Survey.

4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 91.

Jurisdiction. The legal right to control or regulate use of a transportation facility. Jurisdiction requires authority, but not necessarily ownership. The authority to construct or maintain a route may be derived from a fee title, easement, agreement, or similar instrument.

1. Valid Values.

County  
Federal Agency  
Forest Service  
Other Local Jurisdiction  
Private  
State

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Road is under Montgomery County jurisdiction.
4. Source for Data Standard.

FSM 7703.2, Jurisdiction, and FSM 7731, Road Operation.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Numbers 21, 22.

Length. Centerline distance of a management section between termini.

1. Valid Values. Not Applicable.
2. Units. Miles and hundredths of miles.
3. Example. Road segment is 3.46 miles long.
4. Source for Data Standard. FSH 7709.55, Transportation Planning Handbook, chapter 40.

Load Rating. Gross weight capacity for a given load configuration--the inventory (IR) limit and the overload or operating (OR) limit.

1. Valid Values.

Design Load (National Bridge Inventory Number 31; see Source).

- a. Inventory Rating-IR (National Bridge Inventory Number 66; see Source).
- b. Operating Rating-OR (National Bridge Inventory Number 64; see Source).

Road Structures IR and OR

- a. H - XX
- b. HS - XX
- c. U80
- d. Type 3-3
- e. Type 352

Trail Structures IR

a. Lbs./sq. ft.

2. Units. Load Configuration Code - Load Rating (tons).

3. Example.

H - 20 IR; 25 OR

HS - 36 IR; 45 OR

4. Source for Data Standard.

Road bridges: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.  
National Bridge Inventory Numbers 31, 64, 66.

Trail bridges: Standard design practice.

Maintenance Level. Description of quality of service needed to maintain a management section in a desired condition. Consideration is given to existing condition (construction standard), operational strategies, and funding levels. Can apply to either Objective Level (Desired) or Operational level (Actual).

1. Valid Values.

<u>Value</u>	<u>Code</u>
Roads	
a. Basic custodial care.	1
b. High clearance vehicles, that is, 2-wheel drive pickup, 4-wheel drive or off-highway vehicle - basic drainage only	2
c. Suitable for passenger cars	3
d. Moderate degree of comfort to users	4
e. Higher degree of safety and comfort	5
f. Other entity responsibility	X

<u>Value</u>	<u>Code</u>
Trails	
a. Standard	S
b. Less than standard, does not fully serve management objectives	L

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Maintenance Level: 1 - Basic custodial care.

4. Source for Data Standard.

FSM 7732.1, Maintenance Management System.

FSH 7709.58, Transportation System Maintenance Handbook.

Maintenance Responsibility. The entity(s) responsible for maintaining a facility, including bridges.

1. Valid Values.

Bureau of Indian Affairs  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Bureau of Reclamation  
 Challenge Cost Share Cooperator  
 Commercial Hauler of Products from Non-National Forest Land  
 Commercial Use of Products from Non-National Forest Lands  
 Commercial User  
 Cooperator (Industrial Cost Share)  
 County Agency  
 County on Forest Service-County Joint System  
 Forest Service  
 Forest Service on Forest Service-County Joint System  
 Municipal Agency  
 National Park Service  
 Other Federal Agency  
 Other Local Highway or Road Agency  
 Private Other  
 State Highway Agency  
 State Service Road  
 Volunteer

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Primary Maintenance - Forest Service.
4. Source for Data Standard.

FSH 7709.58, Transportation System Maintenance Handbook, chapter 10.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 21.

Management Section Termini. The intersecting road, trail, geographic feature, or political boundary that identifies the beginning and ending termini of a road management section.

1. Valid Values. An alpha-numeric field. Termini are separated by a "to" or a dash "-" to distinguish beginning and ending termini.
2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example.

Termini: Forest Bdy. to Jct. 223

222 to Dead End

223 - Sec. 22

4. Source for Data Standard. Data Dictionary for TIS/RAMIS/BMC System Development (7730 Transportation System Operation, March 7, 1985, letter from Washington Office to Regional Foresters).

Milepost. Distance from the beginning terminus of the route to the location or feature being referenced.

1. Valid Values. 0.00 to 999.99.
2. Units. Miles and hundredths of miles.
3. Example. Mileposts 0.00, 45.17, 103.25.
4. Source for Data Standard. FSH 7109.31, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, section 2D-46.



Number of Lanes - Roads. Number of traffic lanes that characterize a road.

1. Valid Values.

Double Lane

Double Lane with Passing Lane(s)

Multiple Lanes

Single Lane

Single Lane with Turnouts

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Single-Lane Road.

4. Source for Data Standard.

FSH 7709.56, Road Preconstruction Handbook, section 4.24, Road Bed.

FSH 7709.55, Transportation Planning Handbook.

Number of Openings - Culverts. Number of culverts in a multiple culvert structure.

1. Valid Values. Not Applicable.

2. Units. Numeric count.

3. Example. 3 -- three side-by-side pipes.

4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Numbers 54, 55, 56.

Operational Status. Degree to which a facility, including bridges, is available for use by the public, cooperators, contractors, and/or employees.

1. Valid Values.

Value

Meaning

Bridges

a. Open, no restriction

b. Open, posting  
required, but not  
signed

c. Open, posting  
required and signed

d. Closed to all  
traffic

e. Other

Roads

a. Constant Service

Route open at all times except for seasonal  
(winter) closures.

b. Intermittent Service

Route may be closed periodically to achieve  
specific resource management objectives,  
such as to protect wildlife and road  
investment, or to minimize sedimentation.

c. Closed

Route generally closed yearlong except for  
designated uses.

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example.

Intermittent service road closed during elk calving.

Road closed to normal vehicular traffic--open for nonmechanized  
uses.

Intermittent service trail closed periodically to preclude  
grizzly bear conflicts.

4. Source for Data Standard.

Common usage - roads.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 41.

Route. The network(s) upon which a route system is designated. A given route may be part of more than one system. A route segment may be on a road system for a portion of the year, and on a trail system for the remainder of the year.

1. Valid Values.

Value

Meaning

Parent System

Roads

a. County

b. Forest Development

c. Interstate

d. Other Federal

Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Internal Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation.

e. Other Local Public

Other Public Agency includes Townships, Highway Districts, Better Road Districts, or other legally constituted Public Agency.

f. Private

g. State Highway

h. U.S. Highway

<u>Value</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
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Trails

- a. Forest Development Trail
- b. National Historic Trail
- c. National Recreation Trail
- d. National Scenic Trail
- e. National Side Connector Trail
- f. Other Federal
- g. Private

Special Designations

- a. Federal Aid Primary
- b. Federal Aid Secondary
- c. Forest Highway
- d. Public Lands Highway
- e. Scenic Byway

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Route is on Forest Development Road System.

4. Source for Data Standard.

FSM 7703.1, Designation of Facilities.

FSM 7741.1, Route Designation.

FSM 2353, Forest Development Trails.

Titles 16 and 23, Code of Federal Regulations.

Route Closure or Restriction Device. Device(s) used to restrict or regulate use of a transportation facility.

1. Valid Values.

Concrete Barrier  
Ditch  
Earth Berm

Gate  
Other  
Pipe Gate  
Post Barrier  
"Powder River" Gate  
Rail Barrier  
Sign  
Wooden Gate

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Route is closed by a Pipe Gate.
4. Source for Data Standard. Common usage.

Route Name. Name given to a road or trail.

1. Valid Values. Alpha-numeric designator.
2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Beaver Creek Road, Clear Lake Trail.
4. Source for Data Standard. Common local reference.

Route Number. Official identifier assigned to each system road or trail.

1. Valid Values. Alpha-numeric field.
2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. 103, 103.1A, 12N24, 12N24.1C, US 30, I-90, Colo. 44.
4. Source for Data Standard.

FSM 7711.1, Plan Document.

Transportation System Plan Document.

Forest Transportation System Inventories.

Forest Primary Base Series Maps.

FSH 7109.13b, Cartographic Specifications and Symbols Handbook, Exhibits 41 and 42.

Right-of-Way Plats.

Land Status Plats.

FSH 7109.31, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Section 2 D.

FSH 7109.11, Sign Handbook.

Surface. Type of material forming a travelway surface.

1. Valid Values.

Aggregate Surface Course

Asphalt Concrete Pavement

Bituminous Surface Treatment, except Dust Palliatives

Boardwalk

Chunk Wood

Cinder

Compacted Soil

Corduoy

Dust Palliatives

Landing Mats

Native Material

Other

Portland Cement Concrete Surface

Roads

Soil Cement

Stabilized/Modified Aggregate

Stabilized/Modified Native Material  
Trails

- a. Native
- b. Paved
- c. Surfaced

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Native Material road surface.

4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Resource Inventory Coordination Task Group. 1989. Interim Resource Inventory Glossary. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 96 p.

Traffic Service Level - Roads. Traffic service levels (TSL) describe significant traffic characteristics and operating conditions of a road. Levels reflect factors such as speed, travel time, traffic interruptions, freedom to maneuver, safety, driver comfort, convenience, and operating costs.

1. Valid Values.

<u>Value</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
A	Free-flowing, mixed traffic with stable and smooth road surface. Provides service to all traffic with safety (25-35 mph).
B	Congested during heavy traffic, with slower speeds and periodic dust. Provides service to traffic with any legal size load or vehicle.
C	Flow interrupted by limited passing facilities. Some vehicles will have difficulty negotiating certain segments. Design speeds are generally low. May not be stable under all traffic or weather conditions. Use and traffic volumes are limited.
D	Flow is slow and may be blocked by an activity. Two-way traffic is difficult and may require backing. Road surface is rough and irregular. Travel with low-clearance vehicles is difficult. A single-purpose type facility.

2. Units. Not Applicable.
3. Example. Traffic Service Level A.
4. Source for Data Standard.

FSH 7709.56, Road Preconstruction Handbook, section 4.1, exhibit 01.

FSH 7709.55, Transportation Planning Handbook.

Trail Encounters. The number of other trail users seen during a specified time period or distance.

1. Valid Values. Individuals or groups encountered per unit time or distance.
2. Units. Numbers per unit time or distance.
3. Example. 12 trail encounters during a 2-hour hike in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. 12 other users were seen during a 2-mile hike on trail X.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; Recreation, Cultural Resources and Wilderness Management Staff. Geographic Information Systems Team. 1990. Washington, DC.

Trail Width. Horizontal distance, measured perpendicular to the trail centerline, available for passage of traffic.

1. Valid Values.  
  
Clearing Width (existing and planned)  
Travelway Width (existing and planned)
2. Units. Feet and inches.
3. Example. Travelway = 4 ft. existing; Clearing = 8 ft. existing.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; Recreation Cultural Resources and Wilderness Management Staff. Geographic Information Systems Team. 1990. Washington, DC.

Vehicle Restrictions. Identification of vehicles that may not use a transportation facility.



1. Valid Values.

Aircraft  
Bicycles  
Motorized vehicles less than (<) 40" wide  
Motorized vehicles over (>) 40" wide  
Over-snow vehicles

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Trail is restricted to motorized vehicles < 40" wide.

4. Source for Data Standard. Common usage.

Vehicle Type. Vehicles that may use a transportation facility.

1. Valid Values.

Cable Logging Equipment  
Four-wheel Drive  
H15 Truck (Tandem Axle Bob-Tail)  
Logging Truck  
Low-Boy Tractor/Trailer  
Off-Highway Haul Vehicles  
Off-Highway Recreation Vehicles  
Passenger Car  
Pickup Truck  
Recreation Campers and Trailers

2. Units. Not Applicable.

3. Example. Snowmobile, Log Truck, Bicycle.

4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Resource Inventory Coordination Task Group. 1989. Interim Resource Inventory Glossary. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 96 p.

Vertical Clearance. The minimum usable vertical clearance from roadway surface to the overhead superstructure, the usable height for vehicles in the vertical dimension, or not applicable.

1. Valid Values. Not Applicable.

2. Units. Feet, to nearest lower whole foot.
3. Example. 12 ft.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 53.

Year Culvert Built. Date culvert was installed.

1. Valid Values. Not Applicable.
2. Units. Year.
3. Example. 1986.
4. Source for Data Standard. U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. National Bridge Inventory Number 27.