

HABITAT CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION: FROM LOCAL TO REGIONAL

Staying Connected Initiative



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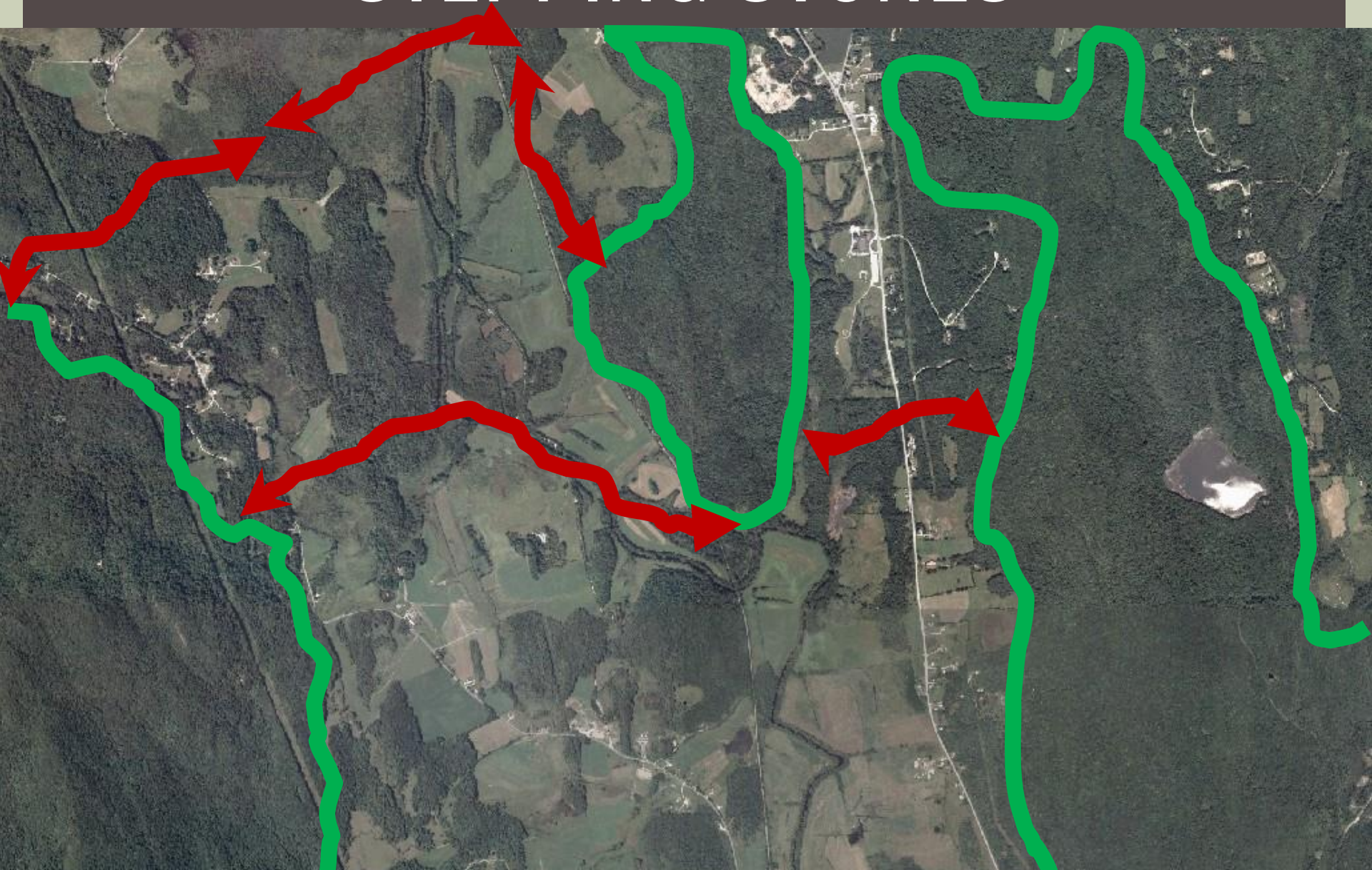
The Nature
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VT Chapter

The Nature
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Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

WHAT IS HABITAT CONNECTIVITY?



STEPPING STONES



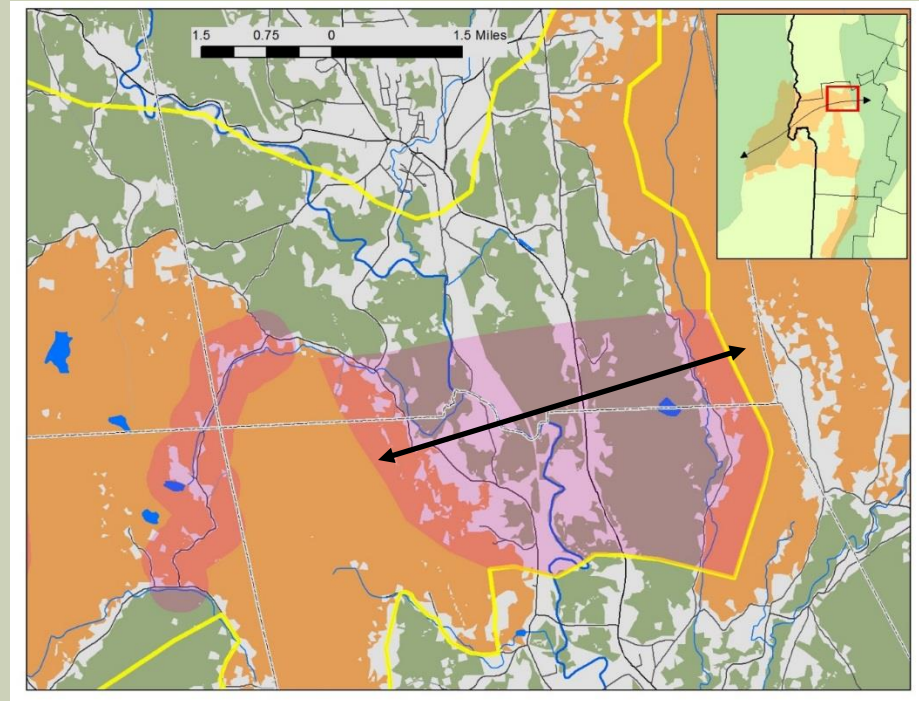
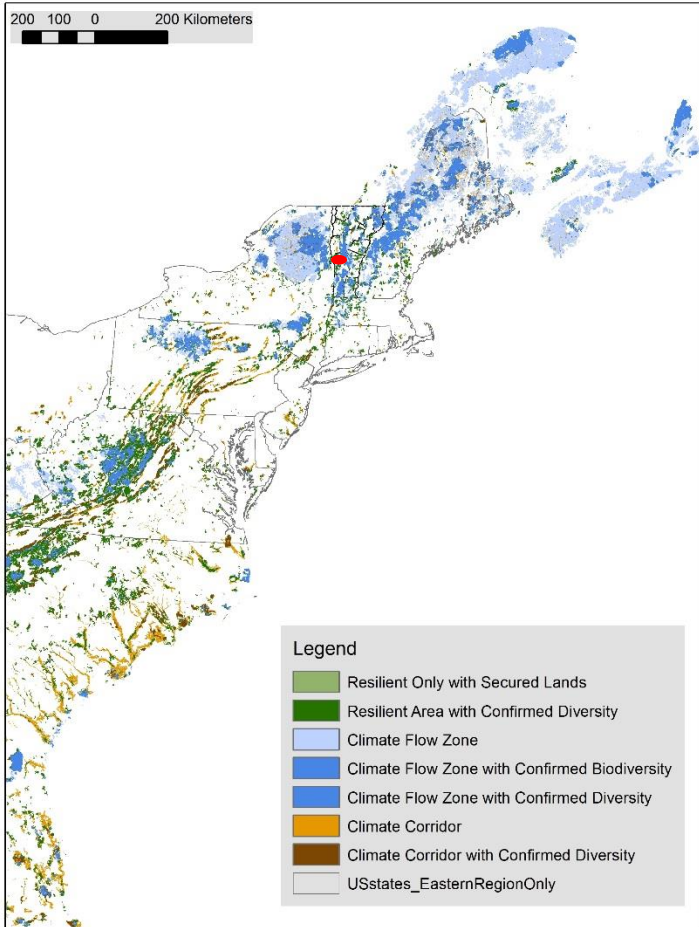
MORE CONNECTIVITY: MORE HABITAT ACCESSIBILITY



- Enable range shifts (climate adaptation)
- Greater resilience to non-climate stressors
- Reduced population isolation (genetic)

Can't have too much!
The more the better!

MODELING REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONNECTIVITY




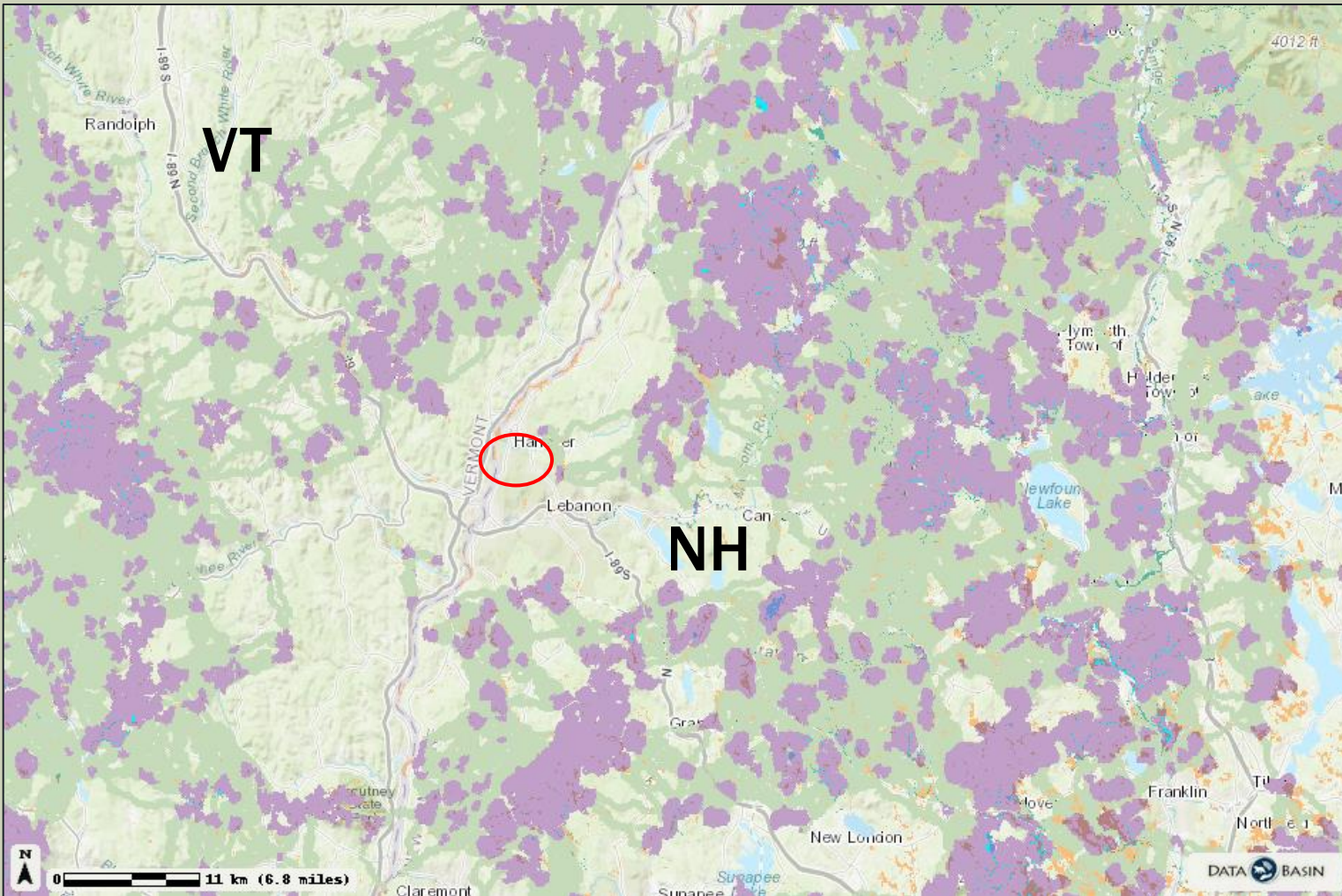
**Linking forest blocks across US 7
in Rutland County
Staying Connected/TNC Vermont**

**TNC Resilient and Connected
Lands (Anderson et al 2016)**

Legend

Nature's Network Conservation Design

-  Tier 1 Highly Important Habitats, Lands, and Waters
-  Tier 1 Highly Important Lands and Habitats
-  Tier 1 Highly Important Lands and Waters
-  Tier 1 Highly Important Waters and Habitats
-  Tier 2 Important Habitats
-  Tier 2 Important Lands
-  Tier 2 Important Waters
-  Tier 3 Land Connectors

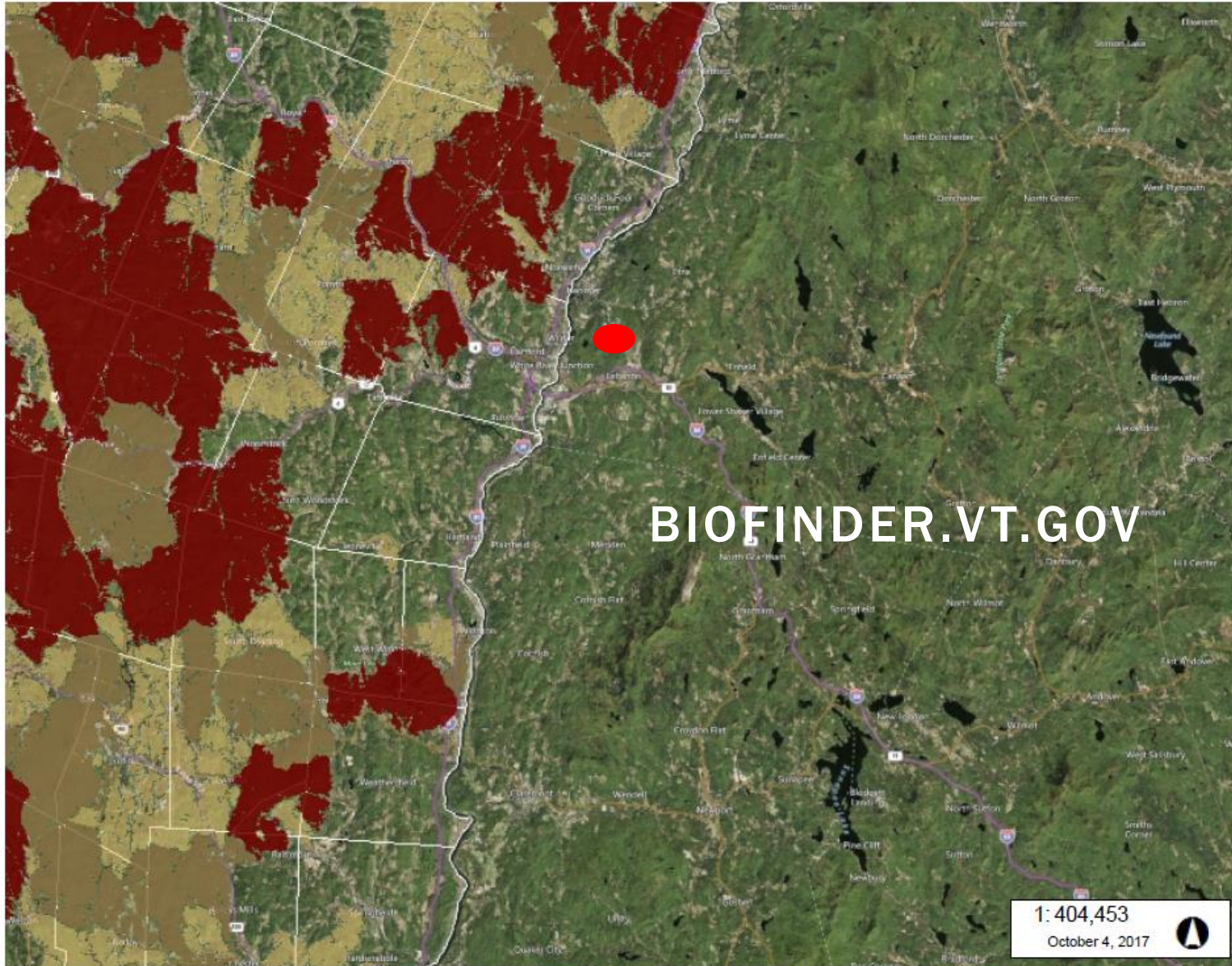


Nature's Network Conservation Design

<https://nalcc.databasin.org/datasets/3d670fad4c924e7ba2ae02f04a128256>

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Landscape Ecology Lab; Chris Tracey, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative





BIOFINDER.VT.GOV

LEGEND

- Highest Priority Interior Forest
- Highest Priority Connectivity Blocks
- Priority Connectivity Blocks
- Town Boundary

NOTES

Map created using BioFinder

1: 404,453
October 4, 2017

6,741.0 0 3,370.00 6,741.0 Feet

DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. ANR and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, for any particular use, nor any warranty of data on this map.

Navigation icons: arrow, hand, zoom in (+), zoom out (-), 102% zoom level, print, pan, home, and refresh.

MODELS ARE JUST THE STARTING POINT.....

■ You need on-the-ground knowledge:

- Where wildlife tend to move across roads
- Where are the most important habitats adjacent to roads
- Potentially important connecting features across road corridors
 - hedgerows
 - culverts/bridges usable by wildlife



ROADS ARE THE MOST FORMIDABLE CONNECTIVITY IMPEDIMENTS

The ability to move across roadways is needed to connect habitat.

Some crossings are regionally important, some are more locally important.



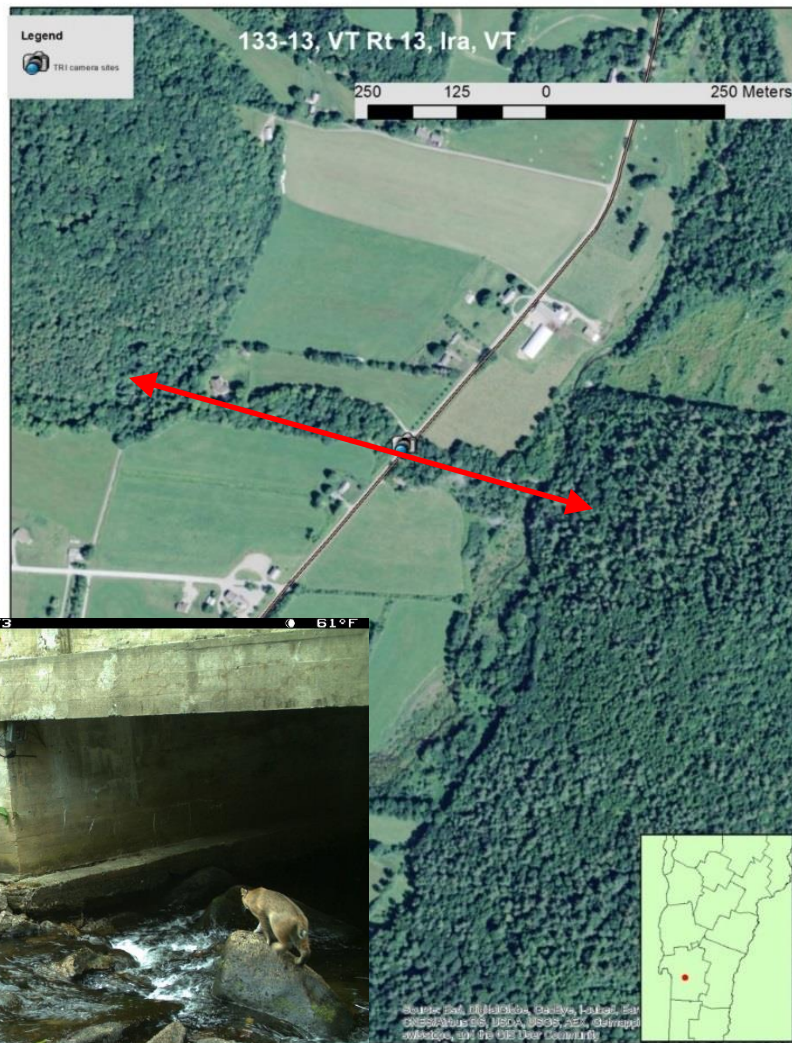
WILDLIFE USE OF CULVERTS/BRIDGES



- **Where are wildlife using transportation structures**
- **What type of structures, if any, are being used?**



CONNECTIVITY CONSERVATION IN ROAD CORRIDORS:



- Culvert and bridge modification
- Targeted road corridor restoration and land protection
- Land-use planning (town plans, zoning)

Connecting Fairlee VT to Orford NH

Legend

- Farmer Hodge's Roadside Stand
- Feature 1
- Hulbert Outdoor Center
- Sawyer Mountain
- Thomson Auto Body
- Untitled Path
- Vermont



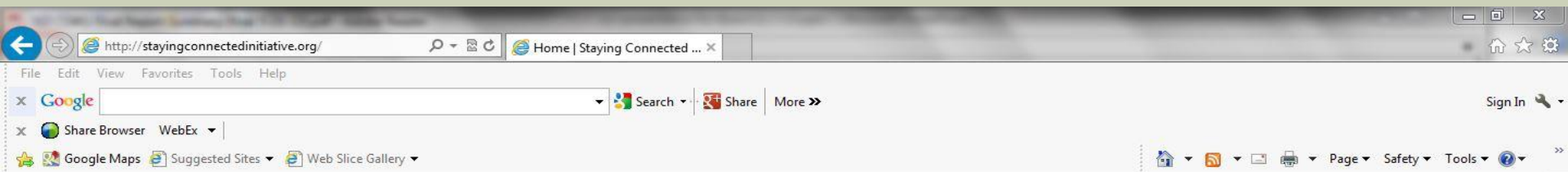
ASSISTANCE FOR TOWNS, COUNTIES, LOCAL GROUPS, ETC.

- VTF&W Community Wildlife Program
 - Technical assistance and municipal planning
 - <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cms/one.aspx?pageId=132648>
- Staying Connected Initiative
- NH local assistance?





WEBSITE - WWW.STAYINGCONNECTEDINITIATIVE.ORG



People Habitat Wildlife

For the well-being of wildlife and human communities, connections matter.

The Staying Connected Initiative is a visionary partnership working to restore and enhance landscape connections for the benefit of people and wildlife across the Northern Appalachian/Acadian region of the eastern U.S. and Canada. Each step of the way, from the Tug Hill Plateau and Adirondack Mountains in New York across the forests of New England to the Canadian Maritimes, the actions we take in our own backyards and communities make a difference.



