

Northern Appalachian/Acadian Region

FORESTS • WATERS • WILDLIFE • COMMUNITIES

This landscape is the most intact temperate broadleaf forest in the world. It is home to some five million people and uncounted millions of wildlife. Canada lynx, black bear, moose, and other wide-ranging mammals can roam freely across much of the area's mountains and valleys. The forests and waters are also vital to people, providing economically important resources, clean water and air, a unique quality of life, and places to explore for recreation and respite.

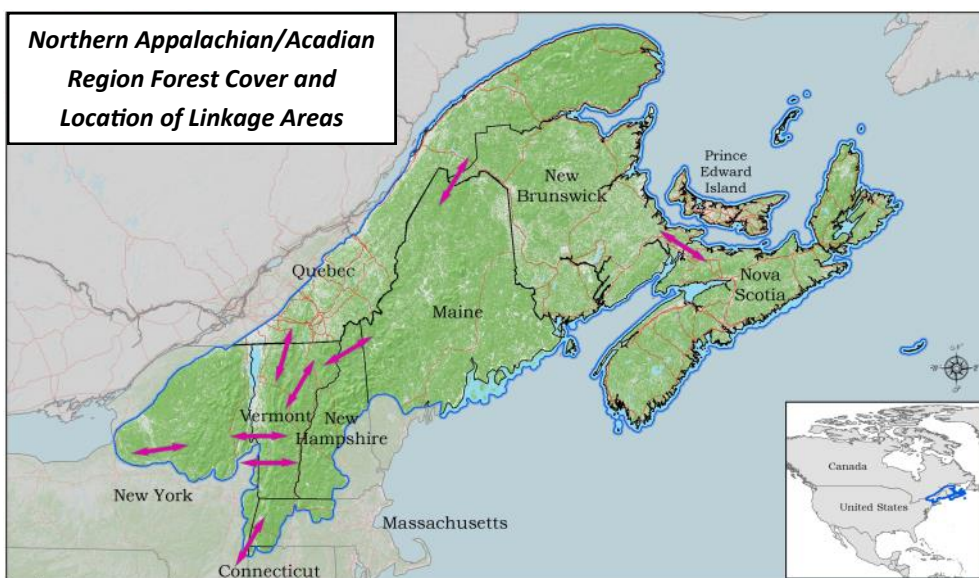
Challenges—from habitat fragmentation caused by development and expanding road networks to stressors caused by climate change—threaten the forests, waters, wildlife and communities that make this area so special. In the face of a changing climate, the region's wildlife require large blocks of forest, together with forested corridors connecting these blocks, to move in search of suitable habitat and thereby persist and thrive.

The Staying Connected Initiative (SCI), a program of Two Countries, One Forest, is a visionary public-private partnership working since 2009 to restore and enhance critical landscape connections for the benefit of nature and people. We work across borders and at many different scales to sustain key landscape linkages across this globally significant region.

80 million
acres (330 square kilometers) of forest in this region

28
partner organizations:
representing 5 states
(MA, ME, NH, NY, VT) and
3 provinces (NB, NS, QC),
and including nonprofits as
well as natural resource and
transportation agencies

9
priority linkage areas
where we focus our work



Our Work

Conservation Science

Sound conservation science informs our strategies to maintain and enhance habitat connections. This includes computer-based analyses to identify important areas where wildlife and development needs intersect, such as road crossings, as well as winter tracking and use of wildlife cameras.

Local Engagement

We work in communities across the region to build awareness, appreciation, and action at the local level. Our activities include wildlife events, guided walks, tracking groups, and supporting the efforts of grassroots organizations. Our work with landowners empowers them to protect the natural resources that benefit us all.



Land Protection

SCI land trust partners have ensured permanent protection of more than 300,000 acres in the nine linkages since 2009. We work to secure protection of priority parcels—such as forested pathways and river corridors—that contribute to habitat connectivity. This also includes providing key stepping stones for wildlife within the “in-between” zones where development is more prevalent.



Land Use Planning

We provide technical assistance on land use planning to achieve habitat connectivity. To date, we have worked closely with more than 40 municipalities and regional planning agencies; many have added specific connectivity provisions to their plans and policies to help steer development away from areas that are vital for wildlife movement.

Transportation

SCI partners, including transportation agencies, work to identify and improve priority road segments where culverts, wildlife crossing signs, fences and fence breaks can make road crossings safer for wildlife and vehicle traffic safer for people.



Improving Policies

We work to incorporate habitat connectivity criteria and objectives into natural resource and transportation plans and policies. With partners from local, state, provincial, and regional transportation and natural resource agencies, we are uniquely positioned to promote best practices and policies that ensure the long-term conservation and enhancement of habitat connectivity in our region.



For more information:
Contact Jessica Levine, SCI Coordinator
jlevine@tnc.org

www.stayingconnectedinitiative.org
www.2c1forest.org