

STAYING CONNECTED

Between the

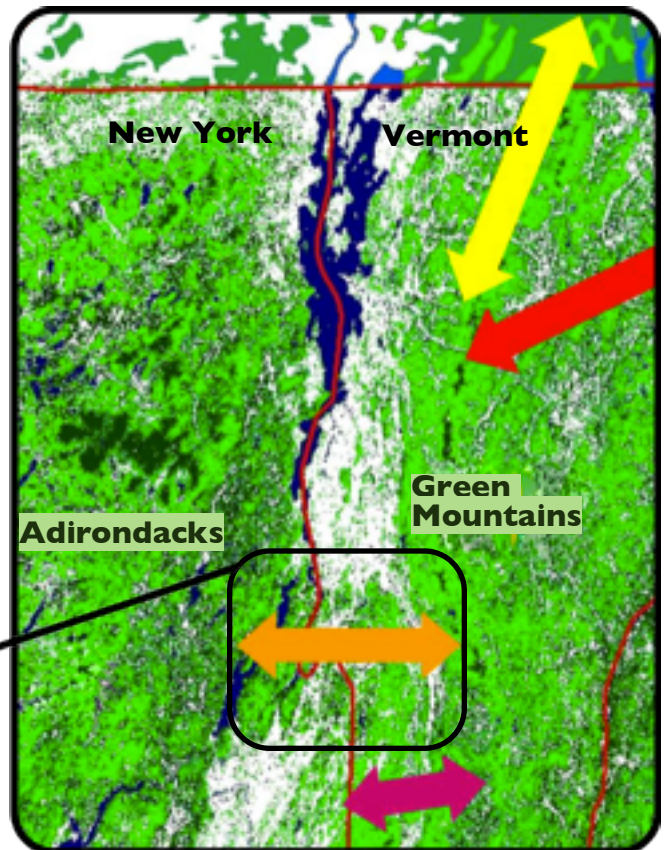
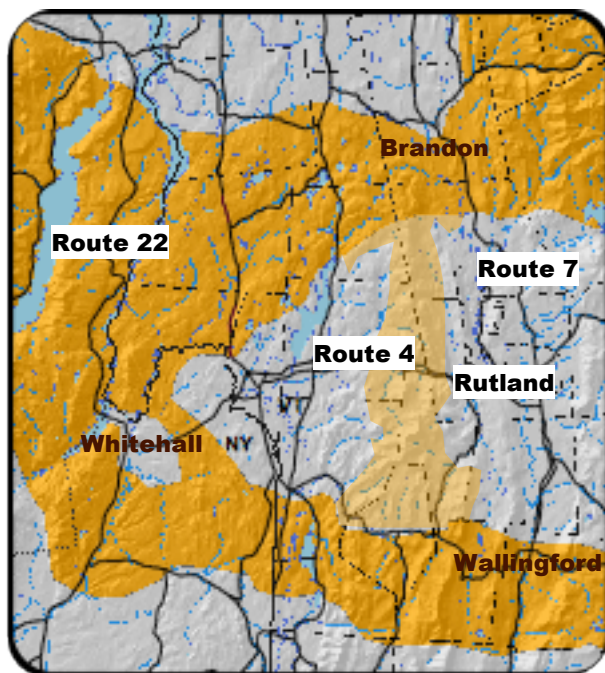
ADIRONDACKS and the GREEN MOUNTAINS

(VERMONT SIDE)

*Working with communities to identify, restore, and maintain a local
WILDLIFE CORRIDOR*

What is a wildlife corridor?

Very simply, a wildlife corridor is an area of land used by wildlife to travel from one large block of habitat to another. In our area, the two blocks are the Green Mountains and the Adirondacks, with a number of smaller “stepping stones” in between. While most animals do not cover the entire distance between the two mountain ranges, maintaining a continuous network of habitat from one to the other allows for genetic flow between animal populations and lets individuals range as far as they need.

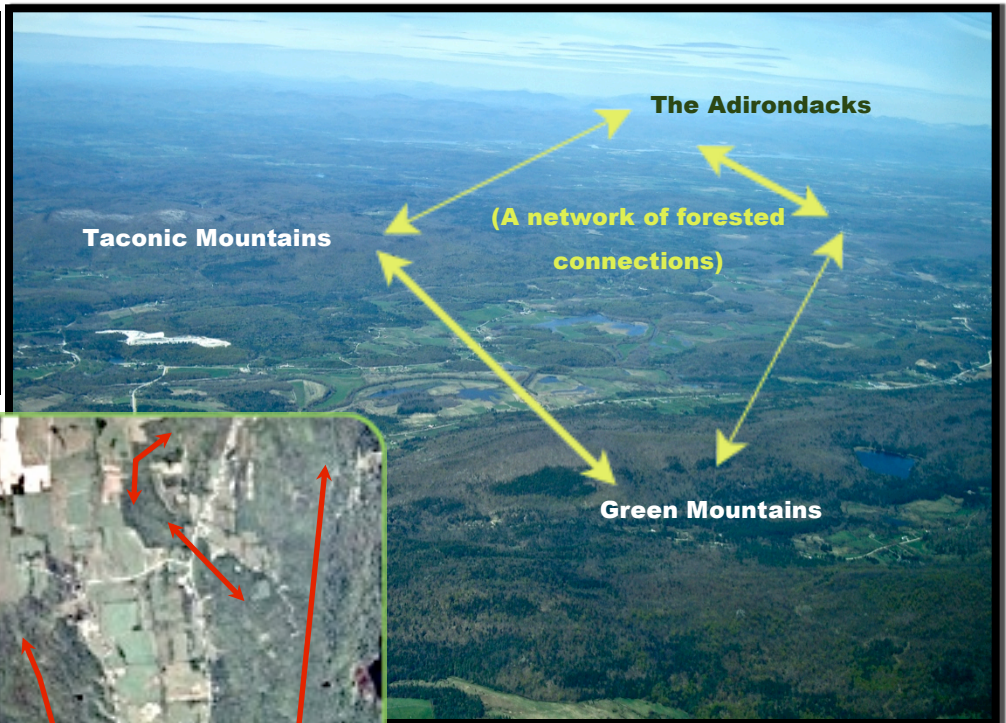


A local wildlife corridor. Of several wildlife corridors in the region (above), one corridor links the Adirondacks to the Green Mountains. This corridor extends through Washington County in New York, breaking into two segments as it enters Rutland County in Vermont (in orange, left). This corridor marks the primary place between the two ranges where forests are continuous and wildlife can roam across the entire distance.

We use corridors, too. We generally call them “roads,” but the concept is the same. We don’t spend much time on roads themselves, because they don’t alone provide us with our daily needs. However, they are essential for getting us to the places that do. For wildlife, a hedgerow between fields or the strip of trees along a river might suffice, when better habitat is lacking.

What does our wildlife corridor look like?

Our wildlife corridor is a network of forested connections, similar to the red arrows below. This pattern of connections is generally *not* linear. In our region, the Taconic Mountains act as a “stepping stone” between the larger mountain ranges (right).



Please visit our website at <http://stayingconnectedgreensadks.wordpress.com>

To contact Local Linkage Coordinator Monica Erhart, please call (802)431-5061 or email monica.erhart@gmail.com

The Staying Connected Initiative in Rutland County

Locally, the Staying Connected Initiative works in several ways:

1. We seek to learn more about local wildlife travel routes, particularly where large mammals cross roads like Route 7 or Route 22A. You can help by letting us know where *you* have seen wildlife or by becoming a volunteer tracker!
2. We work with communities, landowners, or local groups to share information and resources about wildlife movement, land management, and planning related to local natural resource needs. In many cases, we can connect you with resources or services available through our partner organizations.
3. We are also available, at no charge, to consult with many community groups wishing to maintain undeveloped land for any reason: forestry, agriculture, hunting, recreation, clean water, or any other purpose compatible with wildlife needs. Please give us a call to learn more.

