

# Staying Connected in the Northern Appalachians

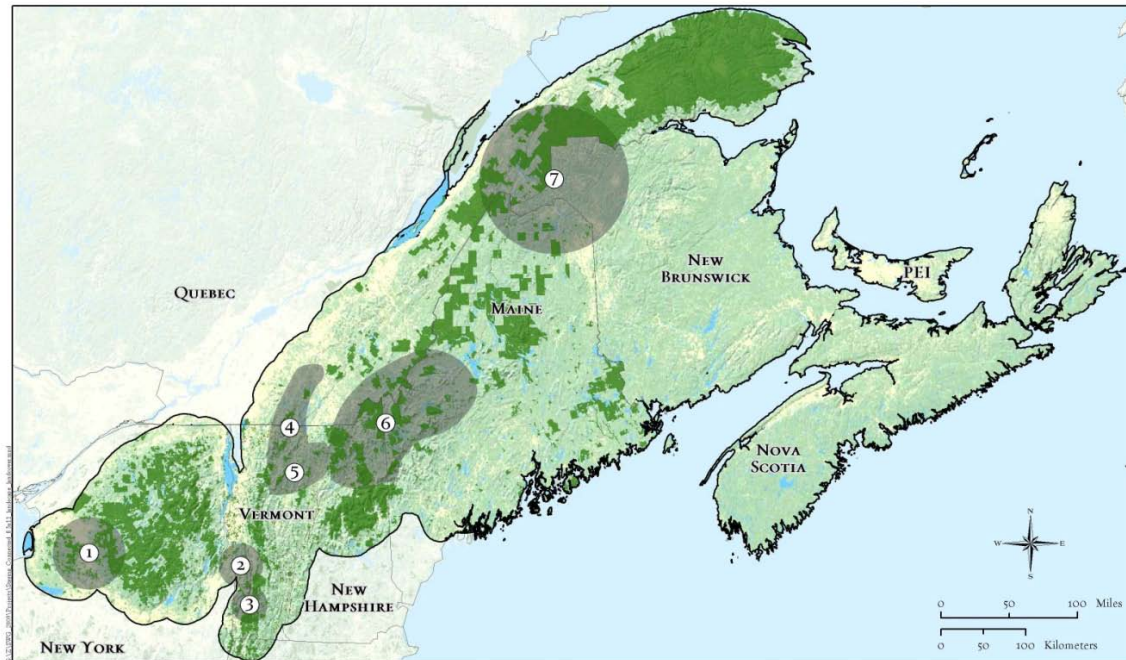
**Geography:** 7 linkage areas across the Northern Appalachians where regional connectivity is at risk.

**Partners:** 21 State agency and NGO partners across NY, VT, NH, and ME

## Key Strategies

1. Conservation science
2. Targeted land protection
3. Technical assistance to local communities
4. Increase the permeability of key roads
5. Model conservation easement language
6. Measures framework

STAYING CONNECTED IN THE NORTHERN APPALACHIANS  
HIGH PRIORITY LINKAGE AREAS



**LEGEND**

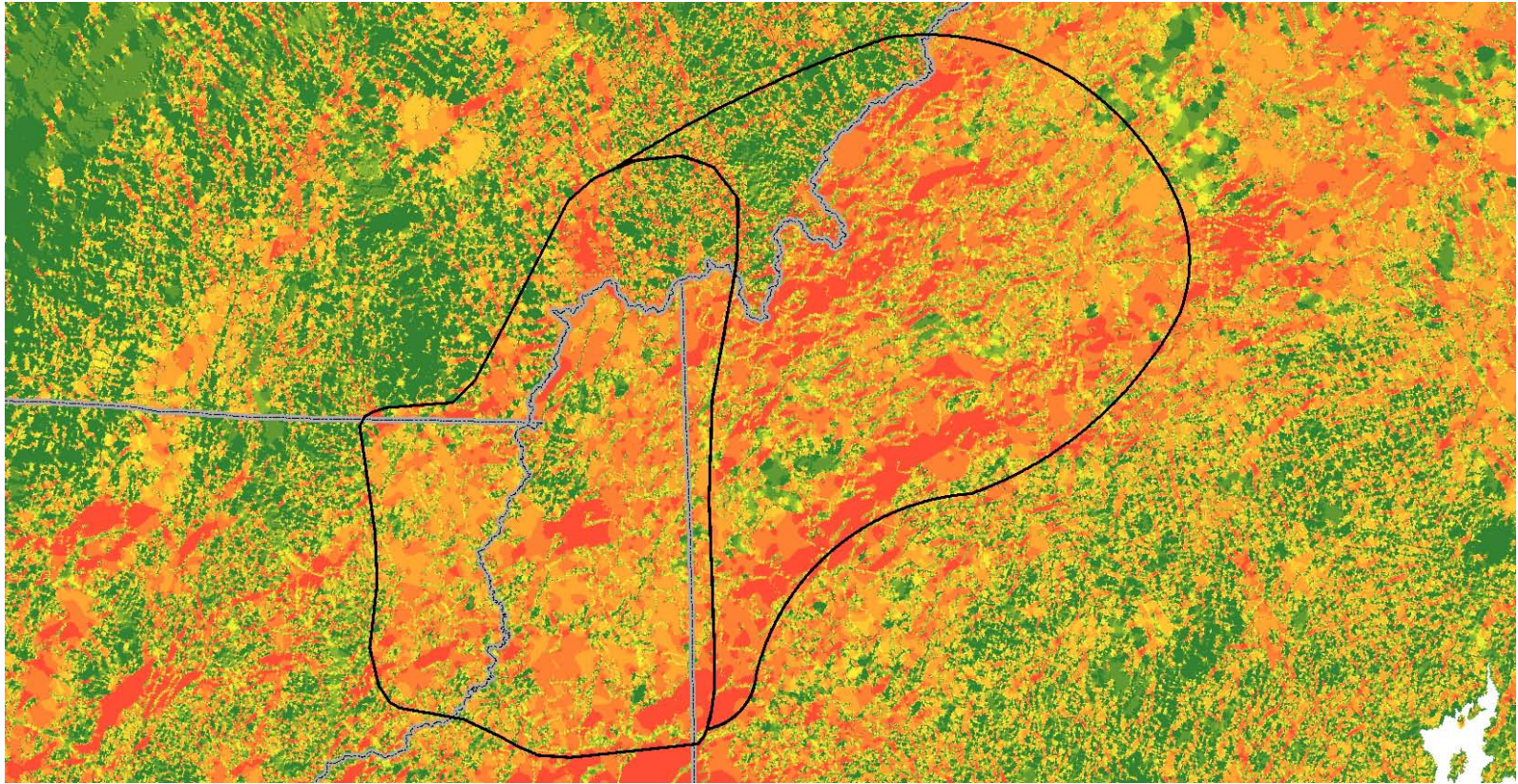
- High Priority Linkage
- State/Province Boundary

- Land Cover**
- Forest
  - Non-Forest
  - Water

**HIGH PRIORITY LINKAGES**

- ① TUG HILL PLATEAU ↔ ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS (NY)
- ② ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS ↔ GREEN MOUNTAINS (NY/VT)
- ③ TACONIC MOUNTAINS ↔ SOUTHERN GREEN MOUNTAINS (NY/VT)
- ④ NORTHERN GREEN MOUNTAINS (VT/CANADA)
- ⑤ WORCESTER RANGE ↔ NORTHEAST KINGDOM (VT)
- ⑥ NORTHEAST KINGDOM ↔ NORTHERN NH ↔ WESTERN ME MOUNTAINS (VT/NH/ME)
- ⑦ MAINE'S NORTH WOODS ↔ QUEBEC'S GASPE PENINSULA (ME/CANADA)

**Key Funders:** (1) USFWS Competitive State Wildlife Grant; (2) WCS/Duke Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund



**Red**: concentrated flow pattern (= energy funneling here)

**Orange**: diffuse flow pattern (= highly permeable landscape pattern)

**Green**: area of low flow (=impermeable landscape pattern)



# Road crossing and habitat linkage priorities in the Adirondacks-Greens Linkage

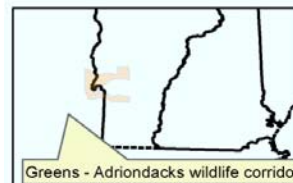
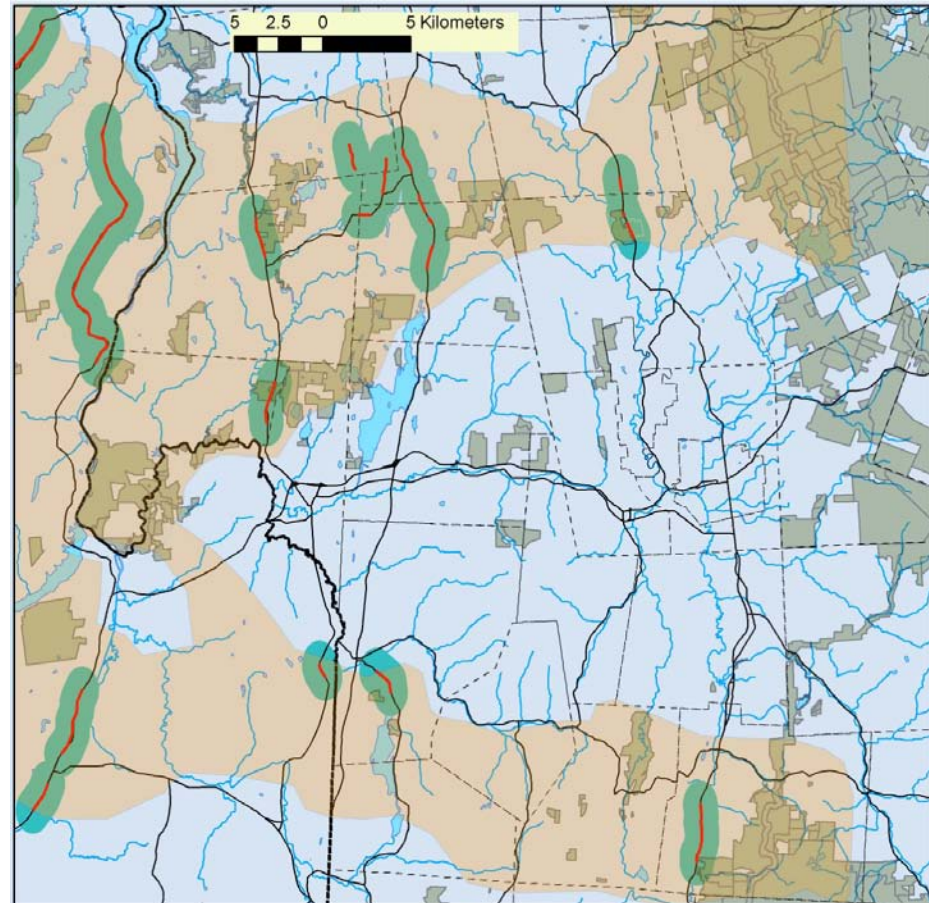
## Science Inputs

1. Least cost path, Fun Conn, & circuitscape GIS models
2. Selective groundtruthing
3. Wildlife tracking surveys

## Outputs to Guide Action

1. *Structural connectivity priorities* for land protection and community planning strategies
2. *Priority road segments* for road crossing strategies

DRAFT Greens to Adirondacks - 1st and 2nd tier priorities for NRCS



### Legend

- Wildlife Road Crossing
- TNC/State/Federal conservation lands
- Priority 1: Road crossings
- Priority 2 - Habitat linkage area





## Objectives

1. Develop data on wildlife road crossings, road infrastructure, and adjoining land cover and use patterns
2. Inform NY DOT road management plans (e.g., rights of way management, signage, fencing, culvert retrofits)
3. Develop remote model to predict potential road permeability over large areas

