A Local Wildlife Corridor
If you live in the Northern Green Mountains, you live in a wildlife corridor. This corridor connects the southern Green Mountains to the Sutton Mountains of Quebec. Our wildlife depend on this link! In fact, wildlife across the northeast, from New York to Nova Scotia, are currently connected in an elaborate network that allows for genetic diversity and keeps populations strong. The network enables wide-ranging mammals like black bear, moose, bobcat, and fisher to travel as far as they need to find shelter, food, and mates.

Vermont is at the crossroads of an extensive wildlife network. Above, the arrows represent places where the network relies on limited connections that could be easily disrupted. Such a disruption of any one of these places could negatively impact wildlife throughout the entire northeastern network.

The yellow arrow represents the land connecting the Northern Greens and the Sutton Mountains of Quebec, one of the few links between the two ranges.

As a Landowner,
What can you do?

If you own forestland:
When managing your land, try to picture how your land fits into the broader, regional landscape. Maintain forested connections between core habitat, stepping stones, and road crossings. A consulting forester, the county forester, or the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife may be able to help you assess next steps or create a forest management plan.

If you own farmland:
Consider maintaining, enhancing, or even widening hedgerows between fields where wildlife can travel while staying under cover. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has financial incentives programs to help some landowners defray costs.

If you own land surrounding a lake, stream, or wetland:
Maintaining or planting a vegetated buffer along waterways ensures that wildlife have a safe place to travel, as well as providing protection against erosion and flooding and keeping the stream shaded for fish and other inhabitants. Natural Resources Conservation Districts may be able to advise you on cost-effective methods of doing this.

Thank you for doing your part!

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THE STAYING CONNECTED INITIATIVE
Northern Greens to Canada Linkage
For additional information, please contact:
Cold Hollow to Canada: www.coldhollowtocanada.org
or Conrad Reining, Wildlands Network: (802) 785-2838
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VERMONT EDITION

Photo Credits: Corel (bobcat), The Nature Conservancy (forest and seedling), Amber Barger (moose), and Monica Erhart (landscape)
WHAT ROLE DOES YOUR LAND PLAY?

As wildlife travel through our human landscape, they rely on a combination of features to ensure safe passage. Where does your land fit in?

Core Habitat

"Core" blocks of habitat are those that wildlife rely on for finding food, denning sites, and mating opportunities. They are generally large areas of contiguous forest land that may include wetlands or similar cover but no development. Wildlife are most likely to be found in these core habitats. However, the genetic diversity required for healthy populations can only be maintained if these large blocks of habitat are connected by stepping stones.