

STAYING CONNECTED

Keeping Working Forests Available for Wildlife

Forest-dwelling wildlife often rely on the same forests that are used for multiple purposes. What do these animals need if they are to remain in the forested landscape?

The Animals Involved

There are many forest management techniques that may attract various species of wildlife. On this page, the focus is on those wildlife requiring some form of forested cover: **moose, bear, bobcat,** and **fisher,** to name a few. These animals need two primary features on the landscape: large blocks of forest habitat, and connections between these large blocks. While other resources may also be needed, being able to move freely through the landscape provides the first crucial step.



Connecting Features for a Connected Landscape

As wildlife move through the landscape, they often connect larger patches of forest together by traveling within hedgerows, along forested stream banks, and by using other connecting features on the landscape (below and below left). Their pattern forms a network similar to the one shown by the red arrows to the left.



In general, bigger forest patches mean more diverse wildlife

WILDLIFE PRESENT IN DIFFERENT SIZED FOREST PATCHES

TIER 1 UNDEVELOPED	TIER 2 500-2500 acre blocks	TIER 3 100-500 acre blocks	TIER 4 20-100 acre blocks	TIER 5 1-20 acre blocks
Small rodents	Small rodents	Small rodents	Small rodents	Small rodents
Raccoon	Raccoon	Raccoon	Raccoon	Raccoon
Hare	Hare	Hare	Hare	
Coyote				
Porcupine	Porcupine	Porcupine	Porcupine	
Bobcat				
Cottontail	Cottontail	Cottontail	Cottontail	Cottontail
Beaver	Beaver	Beaver	Beaver	
Black bear				
Squirrel	Squirrel	Squirrel	Squirrel	Squirrel
Skunk	Skunk	Skunk	Skunk	Skunk
Weasel	Weasel	Weasel	Weasel	
Mink	Mink	Mink		
Fisher				
Woodchuck	Woodchuck	Woodchuck	Woodchuck	
Deer	Deer	Deer		
Muskrat	Muskrat	Muskrat	Muskrat	Muskrat
Moose	Moose			
Red fox	Red fox	Red fox	Red fox	Red fox
Sharp-shinned hawk	Sharp-shinned hawk	Sharp-shinned hawk		
Bald eagle	Bald eagle			
Cooper's hawk	Cooper's hawk	Cooper's hawk		
Harrier	Harrier	Harrier		
Broad-winged hawk	Broad-winged hawk	Broad-winged hawk		
Goshawk	Goshawk			
Kestrel	Kestrel	Kestrel		
Red-tailed hawk	Red-tailed hawk			
Horned owl	Horned owl	Horned owl		
Raven	Raven			
Barred owl	Barred owl	Barred owl		
Osprey	Osprey	Osprey		
Turkey vulture	Turkey vulture	Turkey vulture		
Turkey	Turkey	Turkey		

Compiled by the Vermont Natural Resource Council

Adapted from *Above and Beyond*, Campoli, J., Humstone, E., & MacLean, A. 2002

Large Patches of Forest

As shown above, large forest blocks tend to have a higher diversity of species living within than smaller blocks. As a forest patch decreases in size, fewer animals are able to fulfill all of their needs--and they are unlikely to be found there.

A product of the Staying Connected Initiative

For additional information about the Staying Connected Initiative, please visit

<http://stayingconnectedgreensadks.wordpress.com>

To contact Linkage Coordinator Monica Erhart, please call (802)431-5061 or email

monica.erhart@gmail.com.

