

NH WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

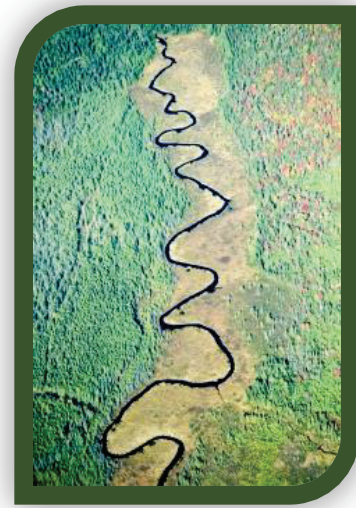


Report on SB 376
June 2018



Executive Summary

The NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) partnered with the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to research wildlife corridors in New Hampshire and address Senate Bill 376, an act relative to wildlife corridors. The research topics included identifying (1) existing and needed wildlife corridors, (2) voluntary mechanisms that affect wildlife corridors and (3) any existing statutes, rules and regulations that affect wildlife corridors.



To identify existing and needed wildlife corridors in New Hampshire, the Wildlife Corridor report planning team compiled and summarized numerous on-going and completed efforts. Some of these efforts have modeled wildlife corridors, based on land-use, to create maps that show habitats linked by wildlife corridors. For example, the NH Wildlife Connectivity Model predicts wildlife connectivity zones and identifies both key areas for land protection efforts and strategic locations for restoring connectivity (page 7). Other efforts to identify existing and needed wildlife corridors have included field research looking for tracks, camera-trapping, reports of sightings by the public, and checking the connectivity at culverts and bridges (page 11). Many regional conservation plans use these mapped corridors to highlight connectivity as a land conservation priority (page 18).

Voluntary mechanisms that affect wildlife corridors include land conservation and management mechanisms (fee acquisition, conservation easements, cooperative management agreements, current use program), technical assistance opportunities, and available land acquisition and restoration funding (page 28).

In New Hampshire, there are limited regulations pertaining directly to wildlife corridors (page 44).

Recommendations include supporting funding, partnerships, outreach efforts, and the development of tools that support priority wildlife corridors (page 47).

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