



PLANNING FOR WILDLANDS & HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

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Northeast Wildlands Ambassador

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Wildlands

NETWORK



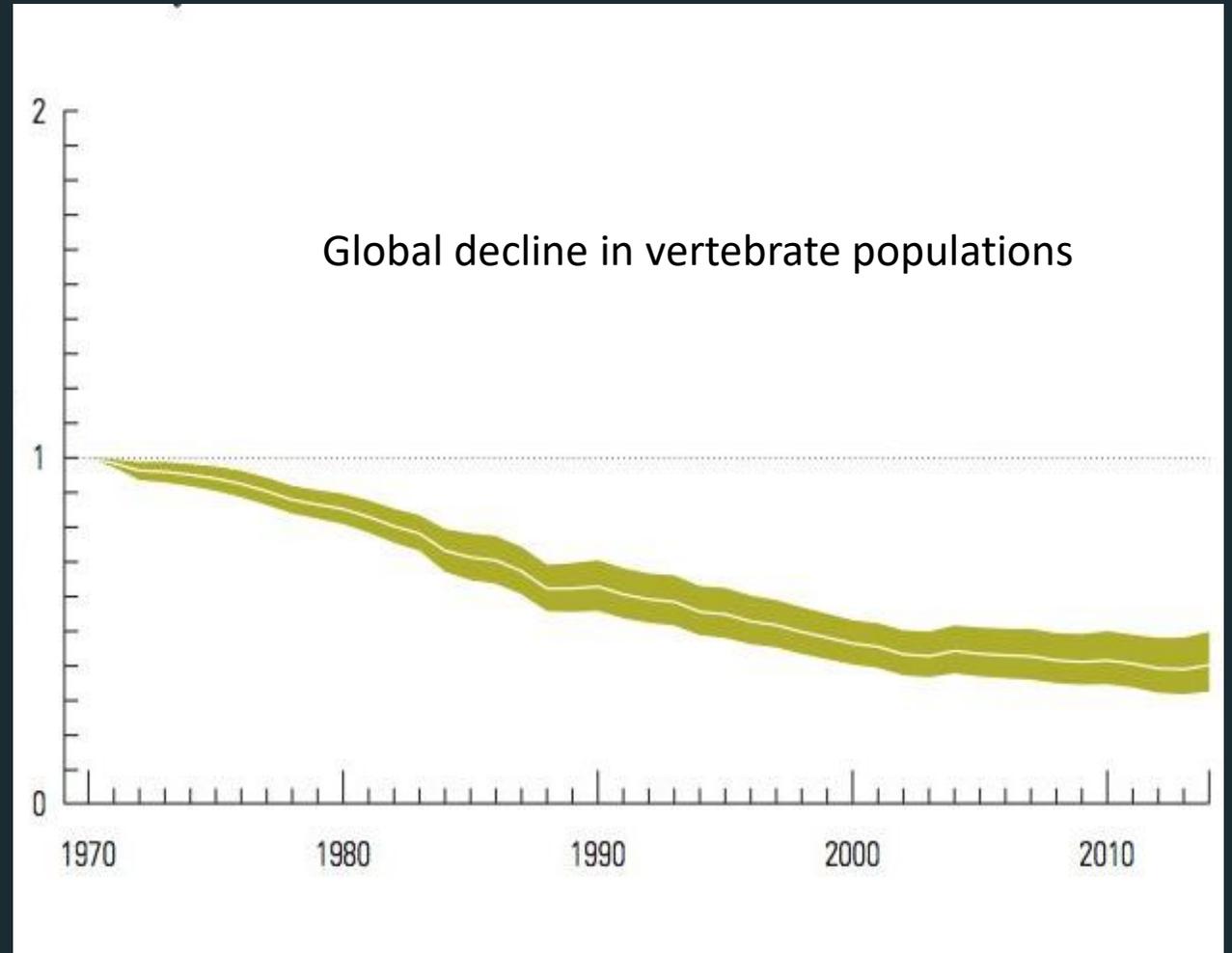
Overview

- Wildlands and Wildways
- Conservation Planning for wildland and habitat connectivity
- Planning Tools to implement conservation plans
- Making the Case



The Problem – A Global Assault on Nature

- 60% global decline in vertebrate populations
- 30% decline in North American birds since 1970
- 2.5% annual decline in global mass of insects
- 90% of large fish gone from ocean

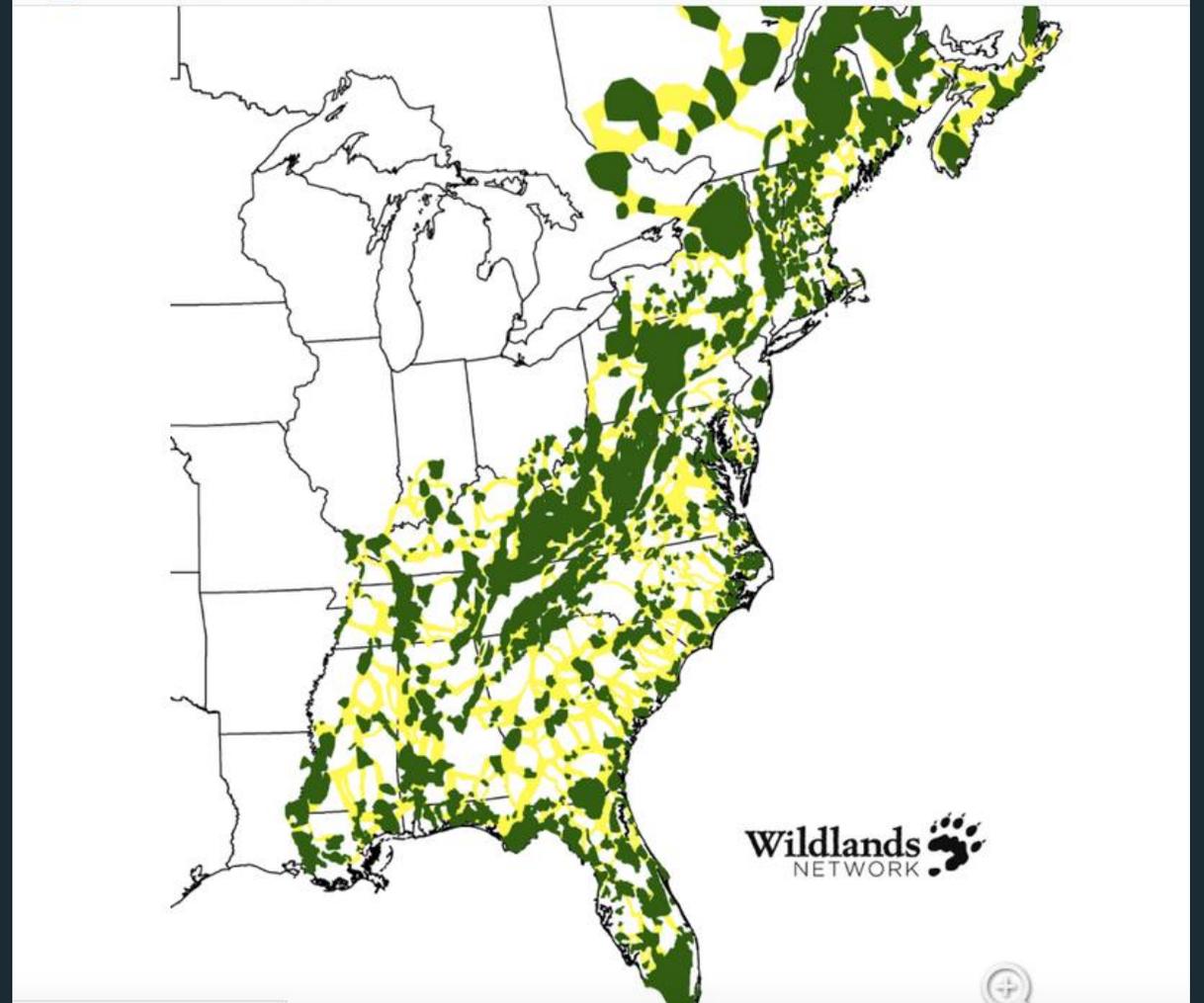


Threats to Biodiversity

- Habitat loss and destruction
- Species persecution and overexploitation
- Pollution
- Invasive species and disease
- Climate change

Why a Wildway?

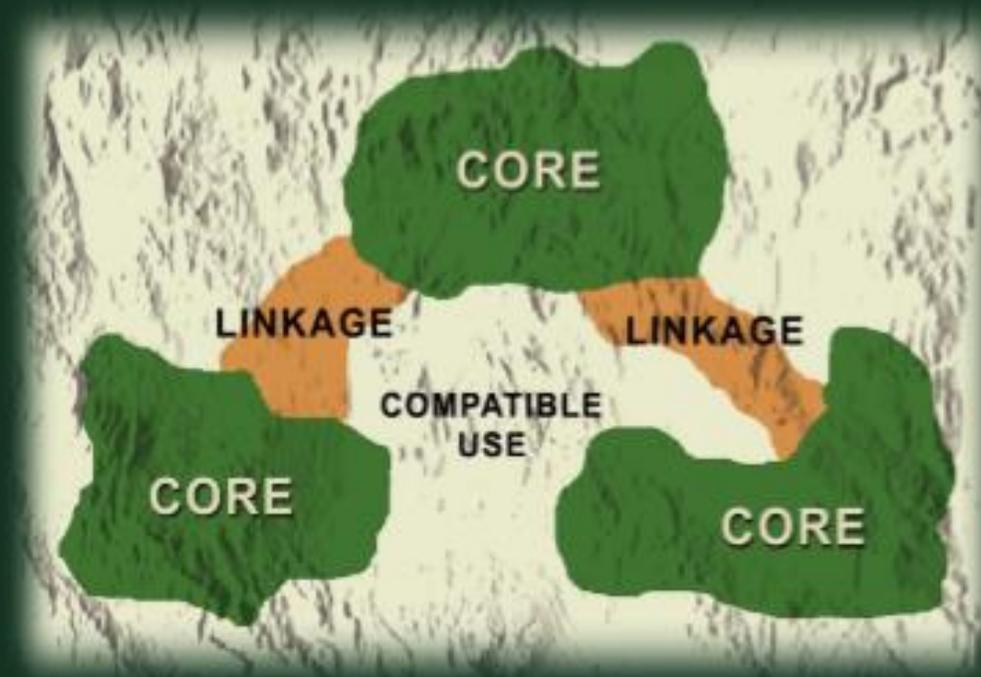
- Half Earth
- Eastern Wildway



Elements of a Wildway

- Large, protected core areas
- Connected by corridors and/or stepping stones
- Permeable landscape

Components of a Wildlands Network

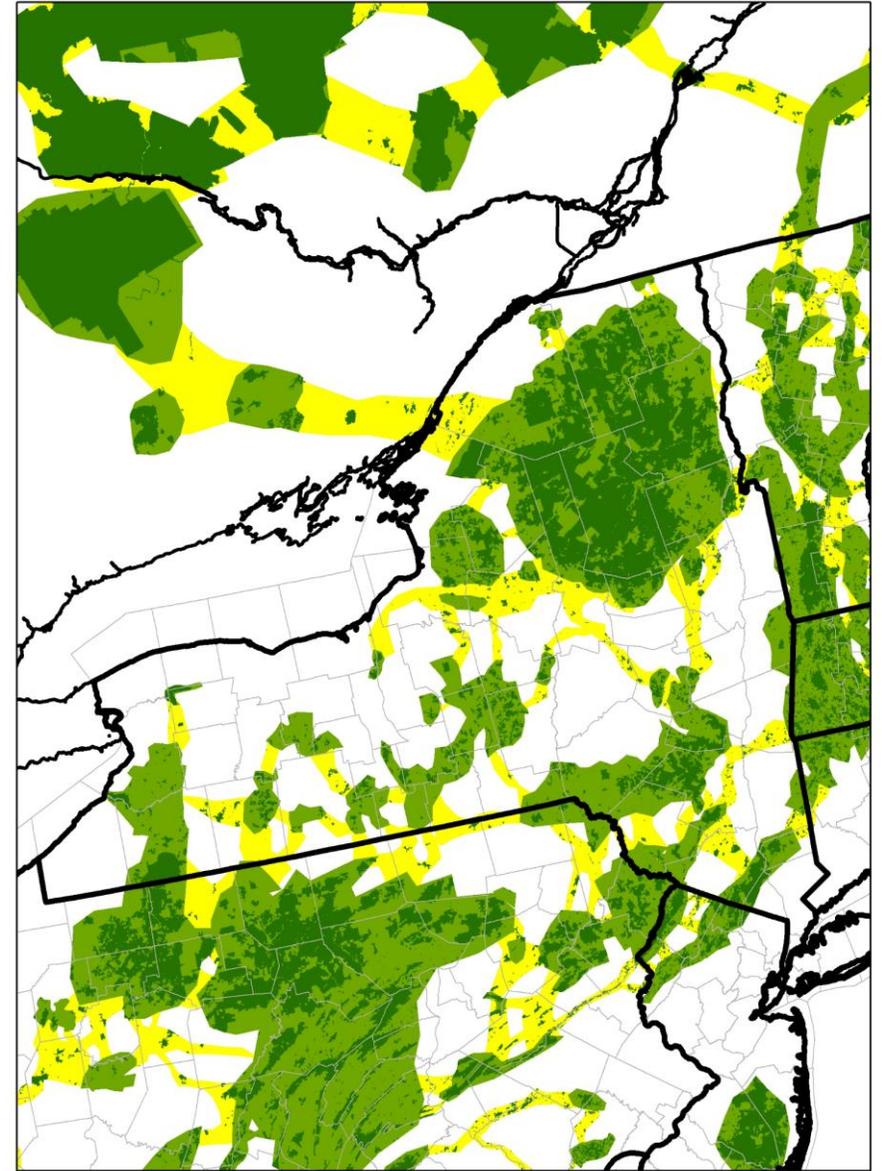


Connectivity

- Food and cover
- Breeding
- Gene exchange
- Changing Climate
- Population Recovery



Eastern Wildway – New York

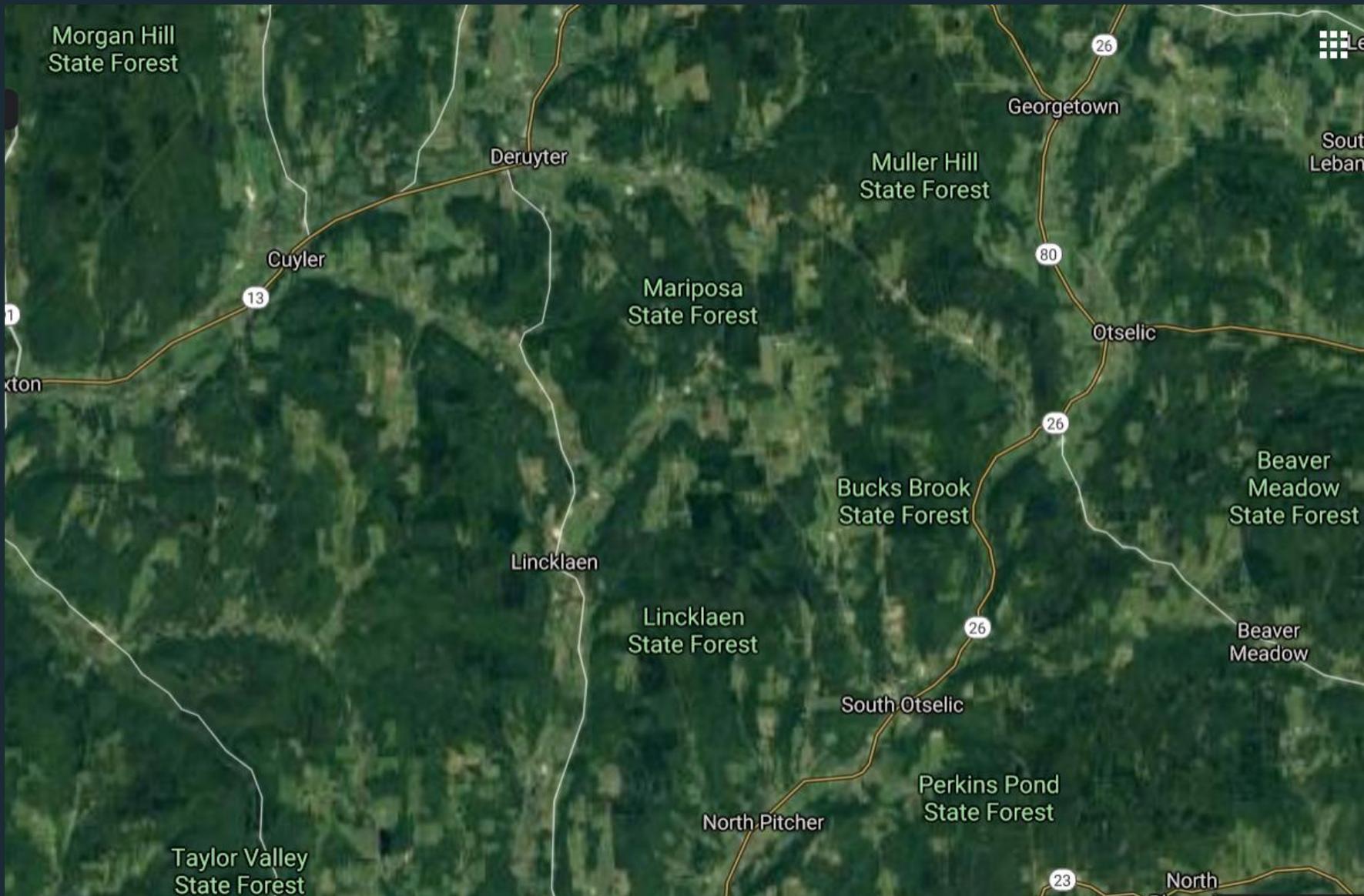


Wildlands
NETWORK

0 25 50 100 Miles



Wildway Cores
Wildway Corridors
Already Protected



Overview of Planning Tools

- Comprehensive Plan
- Conservation Plans & Strategies
- Critical Environmental Areas
- Development Review Standards
- Conservation Zoning Districts
- Conservation Subdivision

Conservation Planning Process - Inventory

- Protected Land
- Forest blocks
- Riparian areas
- Ecological inventories
- Landscape Features
- Current and future movement corridors

Wildlife Corridor Design

- ID areas to be connected
- Focal species/needs
- Map/evaluate corridors
 - computer models
 - expert judgement



Tompkins County Habitat Connectivity Strategy

Figure 2: Tompkins County Natural Features Focus Areas

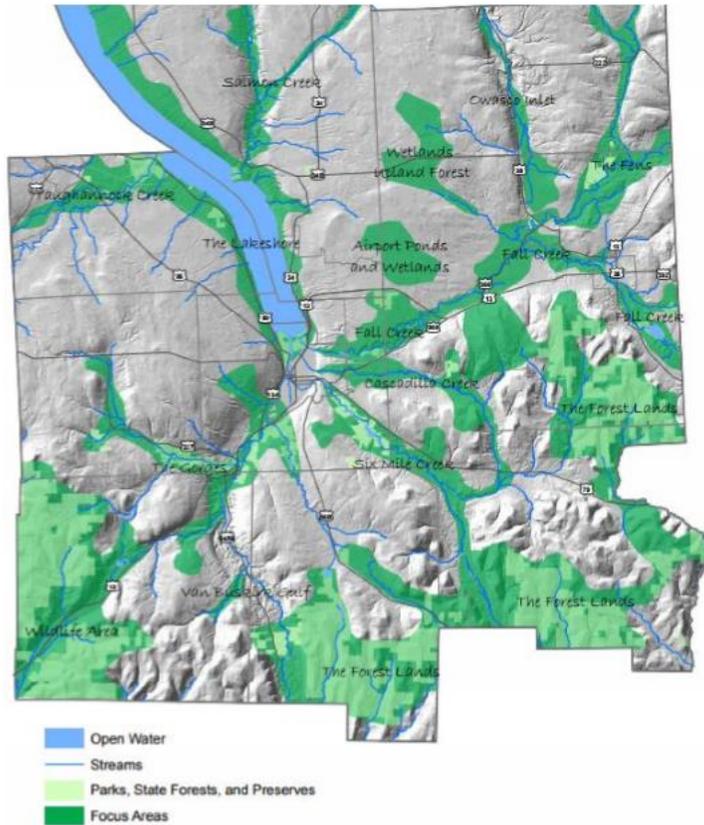
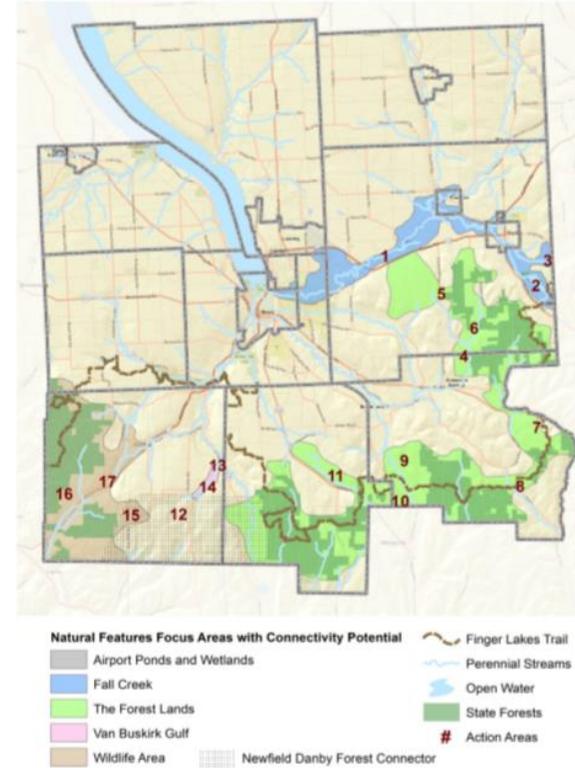


Figure 3: General location for Site Specific Actions



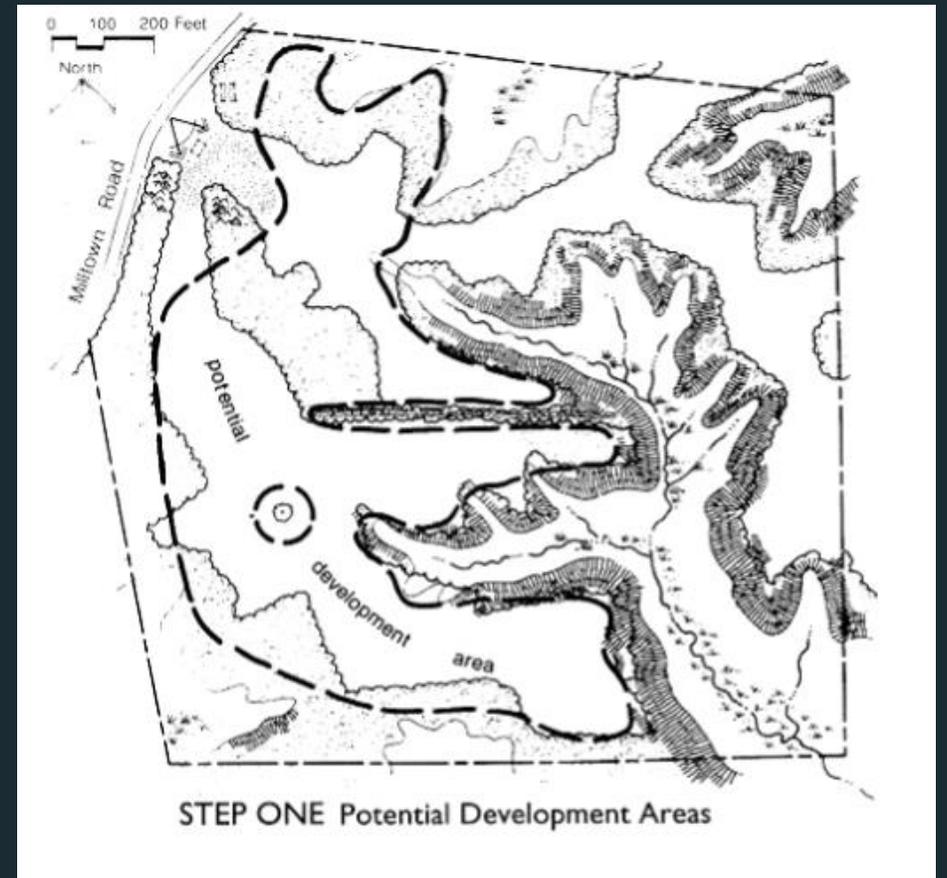
Communities without site specific actions in their communities should still consider some of the following action to help improve connectivity in their local habitat networks.

Conservation Zoning Districts

- Delineation of resources on/off site for all development
- Lot size and density
- Strictly limit allowed uses
- Setbacks and buffering
- Mandatory Conservation Subdivision
- Building envelope
- Fences, outdoor lighting, etc.

Conservation Subdivision

- Locate development away from cores and corridors
- Maintain landscape connectivity
- Protect at least 50% of site
- Preserve and buffer important resources and habitat



Road Ecology

- Large openings around stream crossings
- Natural substrate on bottom of culverts
- Vegetation on both sides of road in corridor crossings
- Wildlife crossing signs/reduced speed
- Wildlife underpasses on major highways



WHAT ROLE DOES YOUR LAND PLAY?

As wildlife travel through our human landscape, they rely on a combination of landscape features to ensure safe passage.

Where does your land fit in?

Core habitat

Large blocks of contiguous forest provide the necessary habitat for animals to find food and shelter, and to reproduce. In order to maintain healthy populations and genetic diversity, however, animals must be able to move between these large blocks of habitat.

Hedgerows

Many Northern Forest species prefer not to pass through open or agricultural areas, and take advantage of the cover provided by hedgerows between fields.

Riparian areas

Rivers, streams and their banks provide important habitat along which animals often travel. Maintaining cover (trees and shrubs) in these areas provides safer and more secure corridors for wildlife.

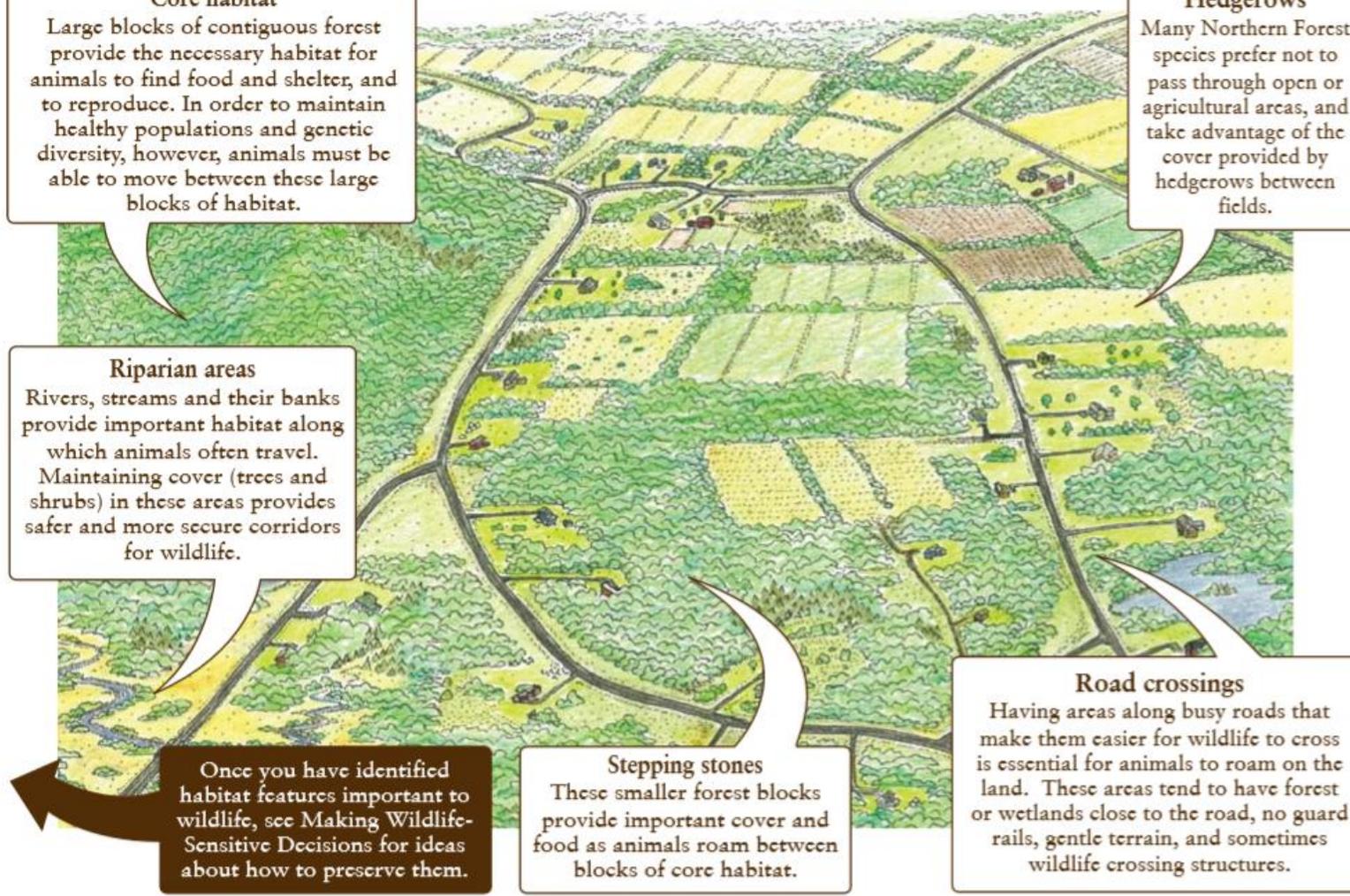
Road crossings

Having areas along busy roads that make them easier for wildlife to cross is essential for animals to roam on the land. These areas tend to have forest or wetlands close to the road, no guard rails, gentle terrain, and sometimes wildlife crossing structures.

Stepping stones

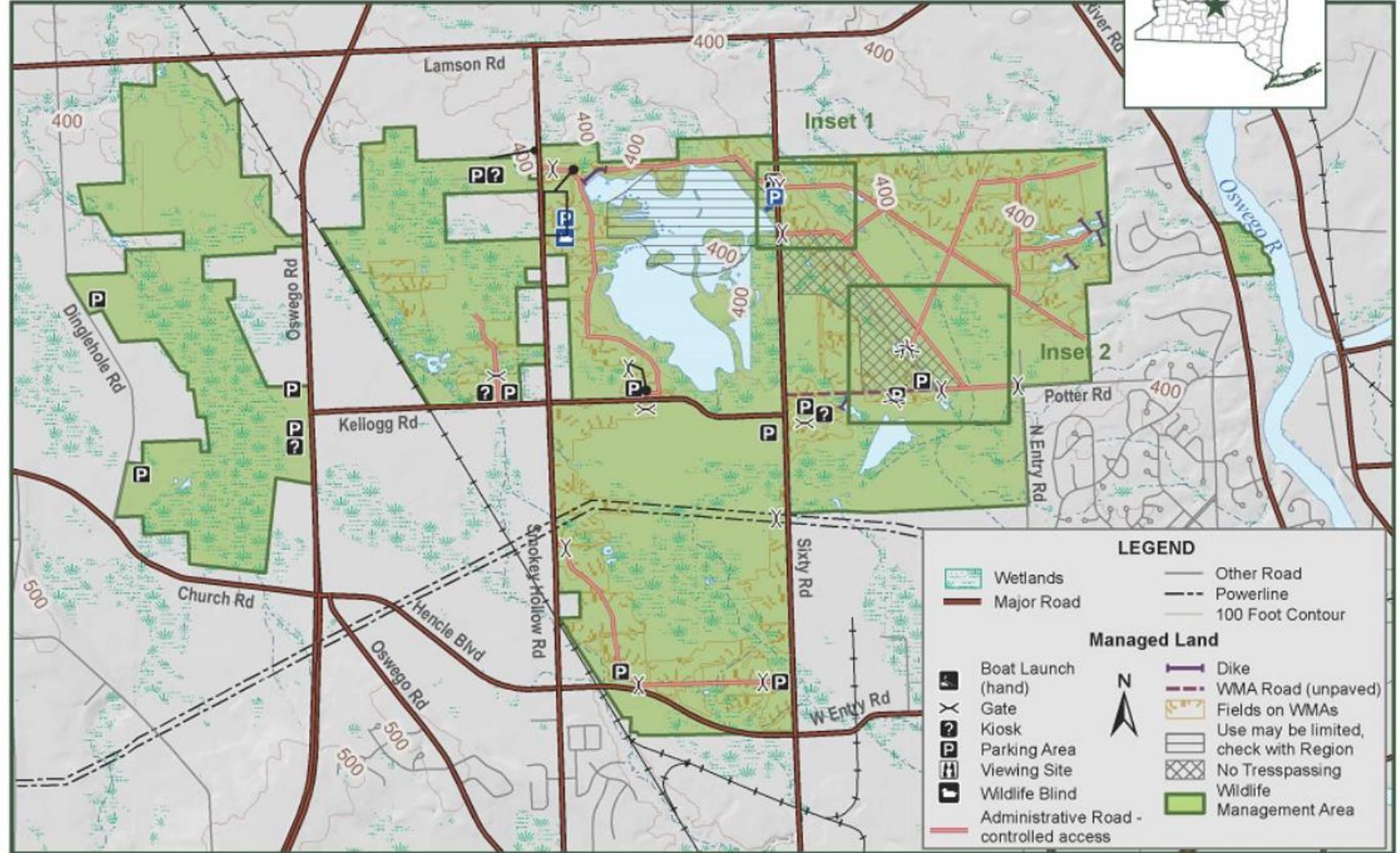
These smaller forest blocks provide important cover and food as animals roam between blocks of core habitat.

Once you have identified habitat features important to wildlife, see *Making Wildlife-Sensitive Decisions* for ideas about how to preserve them.

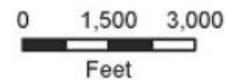


THREE RIVERS

Wildlife Management Area



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Lysander, Onondaga Co.





Three Rivers

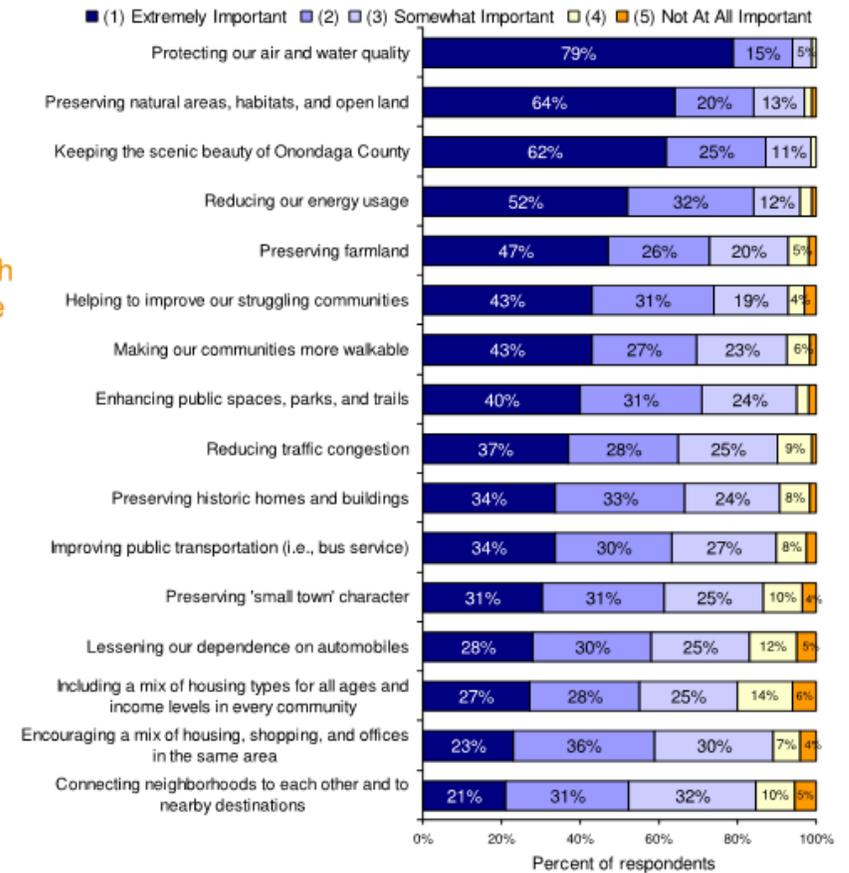
Beaver Lake

Making the Case

- Onondaga County Survey
- Central NY Regional Sustainability Plan
- Water Quality
- Carbon Sequestration
- Tourism Economy
- Quality of Life

Priority Areas

Rank how important each of the following ideas are to help make Onondaga County a great place to live for you and future generations.





Hope for the Future

Living in Harmony with Nature

Connect With Us

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THANK YOU

