



H.789 Forest Integrity: Requested Amendments

Contact: Sharon Murray AICP, VPA Legislative Liaison 802.434.4118 | frontporch@gmavt.net

1. Strike: “[and] habitat connector” throughout.

2. Definitions

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 4303 is amended to read:

§ 4303. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall apply throughout this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

* * *

Amend:

(34) “Forest block” means a contiguous area of forest in any stage of succession and not currently developed for nonforest use. A forest block may include unpaved recreational trails, wetlands or other natural features that ~~do not themselves possess~~ interrupt tree cover, and uses [forestry operations] or silvicultural practices exempt from regulation under subsection 4413(d) of this title.

(35) “Forest fragmentation” means the division or conversion of a forest block by land development other than by ~~an unpaved recreational trail~~ or a use [forestry operation] or silvicultural practice exempt from regulation under subsection 4413(d) of this title.

Strike:

(36) ~~“Habitat connector” or “wildlife corridor” [add if definition retained] means land or water, or both, that links patches of wildlife habitat within a landscape, allowing the movement, migration, and dispersal of animals and plants and the functioning of ecological processes. A habitat connector may include unpaved [add if retained in definition] recreational trails.~~

(37) ~~“Recreational trail” means a corridor that is not paved and that is used for hiking, walking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, horseback riding, and other similar recreational activity.~~

3. Effective Dates: If all definitions are to be retained in the bill.

Sec. 6. Effective Dates

(b) Secs.1 (purpose; goals) ~~and 2 (definitions)~~ shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

(c) Secs. 2 (definitions), 3 (elements of a regional plan) and 4 (plan for a municipality) shall take effect on January 1, 2018.