H.926 Connecting Habitat Proposals

Leg Council	NRB	VNRC
10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)	10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)(8)	
(C) Will not have an undue	(C) Will not have an undue adverse	
adverse impact on forest blocks and	impact on forest blocks and connecting habitat.	
connecting habitat. A permit shall be	A permit shall be granted only if impacts to	
granted only if impacts to forest blocks and	forest blocks and connecting habitat are	
connecting habitat are avoided, minimized,	avoided, minimized, and mitigated in	
and mitigated in accordance with rules	accordance with rules adopted by the Board.	
adopted by the Board. After avoiding and	Mitigation shall not be available when the	
minimizing any impacts on connecting	proposed subdivision or development will	
habitat, mitigation shall only be allowed in	result in a forest block or connecting habitat	
order to maintain the functionality of the	that no longer exhibits each of the	
connecting habitat and shall not allow the	characteristics that define a forest block or	
connecting habitat to be severed.	connecting habitat pursuant to Board Rules.	
Sec. 10. CRITERION 8(C)		Sec. 10. CRITERION 8(C) RULEMAKING
RULEMAKING		(3) Criteria to identify when a forest block or
(3) Criteria to identify when a forest		connecting habitat is eligible for mitigation, and
block or connecting habitat is eligible for		criteria to identify when a forest block or connecting
mitigation.		habitat is not eligible for mitigation due to the unique
(4) Standards for how impacts to a		value of the area and need to maintain the
forest block or connecting habitat may be		functionality of the forest block or connecting
mitigated. Standards may include:		habitat.
(A) appropriate ratios for		(4) Standards for how impacts to a forest block
compensation;		or connecting habitat may be mitigated. Standards
(B) appropriate forms of		may include:
compensation such as conservation		(A) appropriate ratios for compensation;
easements, fee interests in land, and other		(B) appropriate forms of compensation such
forms of compensation; and		as conservation easements, fee interests in land, and
(C) appropriate uses of on-site and		other forms of compensation; and
off-site mitigation.		(C) appropriate uses and limitations of on-
		site and off-site mitigation.