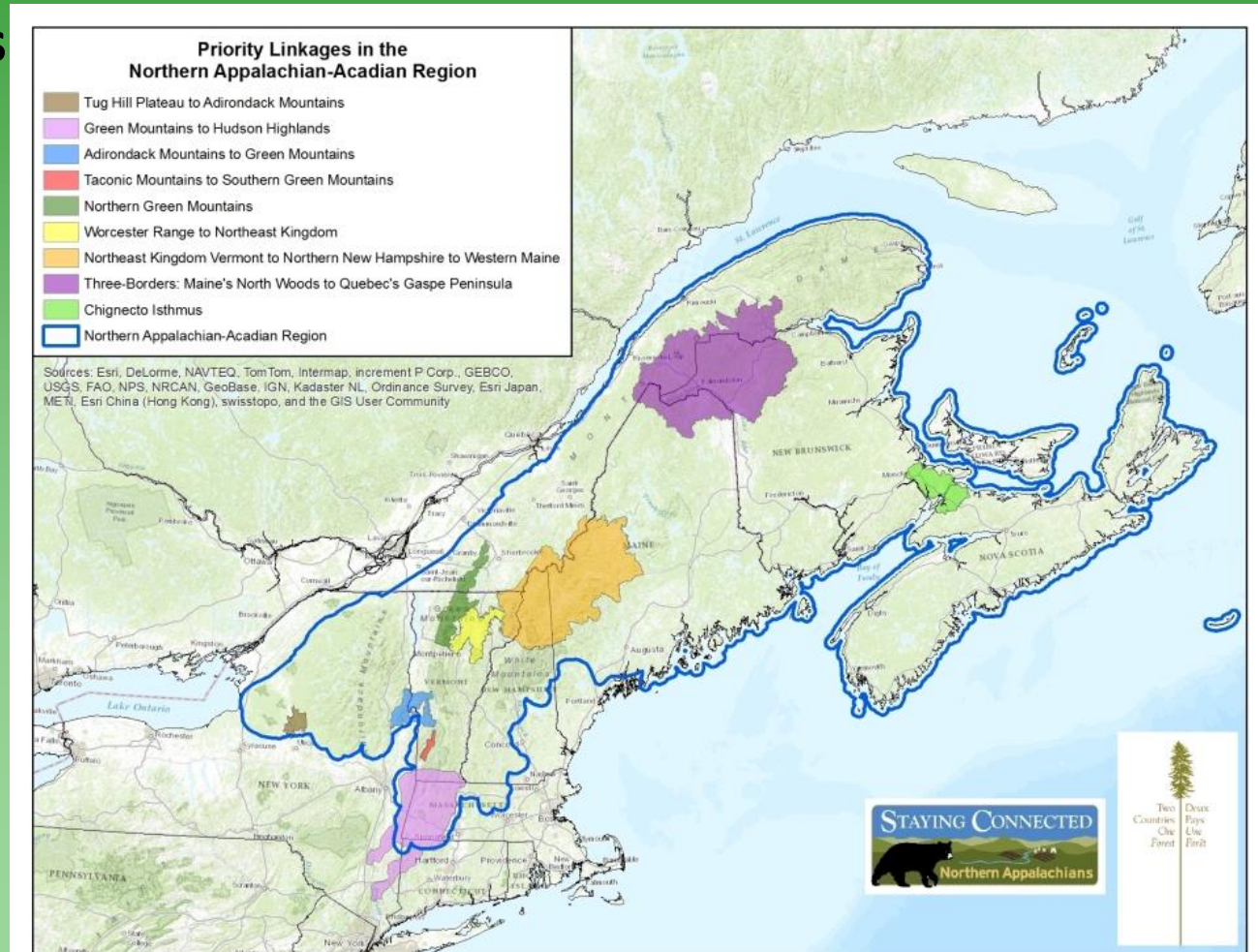


Staying Connected Initiative

An international collaboration to conserve, restore, and enhance landscape connectivity across the Northern Appalachian/Acadian region of the U.S. and Canada for the benefit of nature and people.

Over 60 collaborators

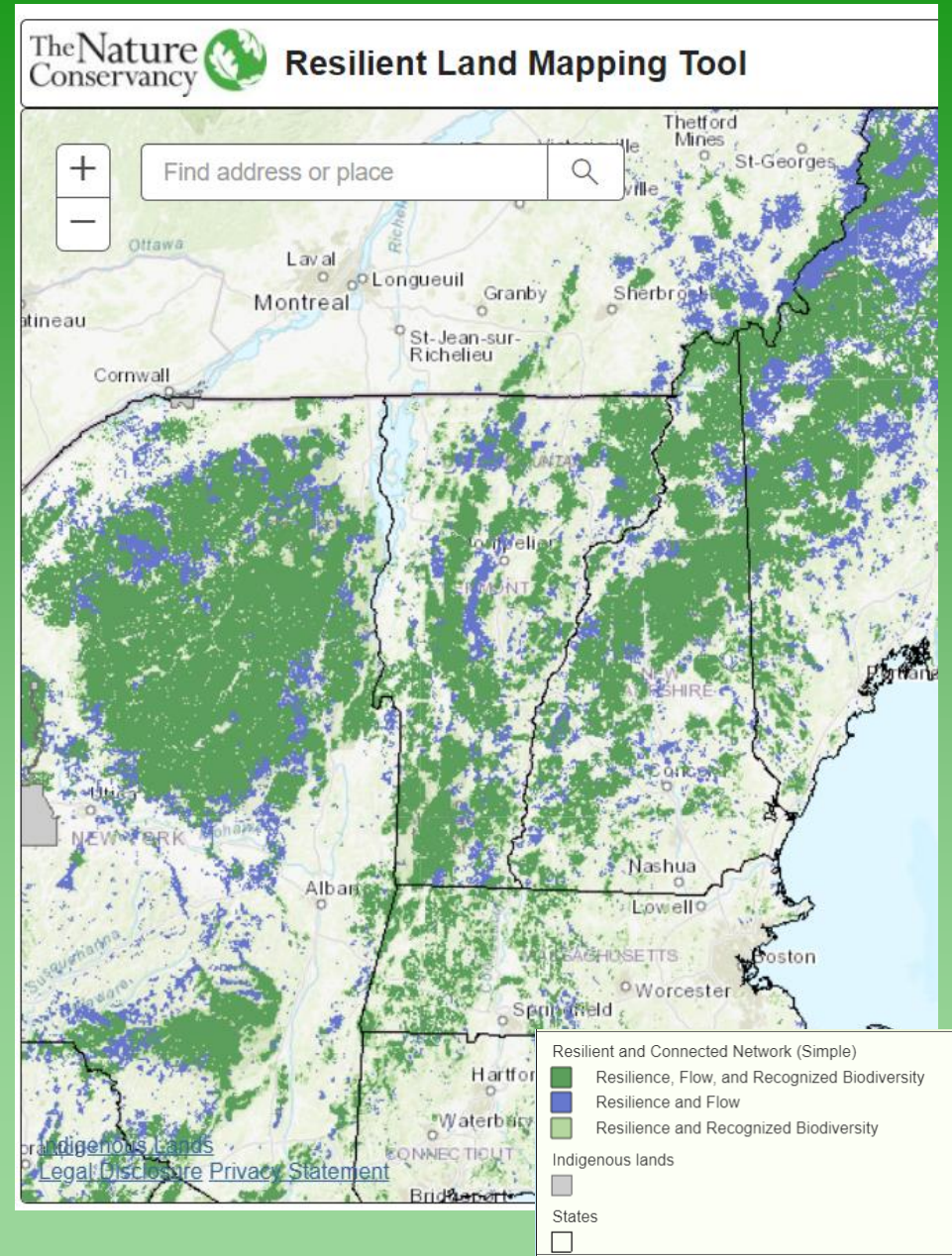
- Identifies 9 linkage areas that are extremely important to wildlife, 6 of which occur in Vermont.



Resilient and Connected Landscapes

The Nature Conservancy

- Identifies areas that are most resilient to climate change, host biological diversity and geophysical diversity, and are part of a connected landscape network.
- Provides critical regional and continental perspective.
- Highly compatible with Vermont Conservation Design.



Vermont

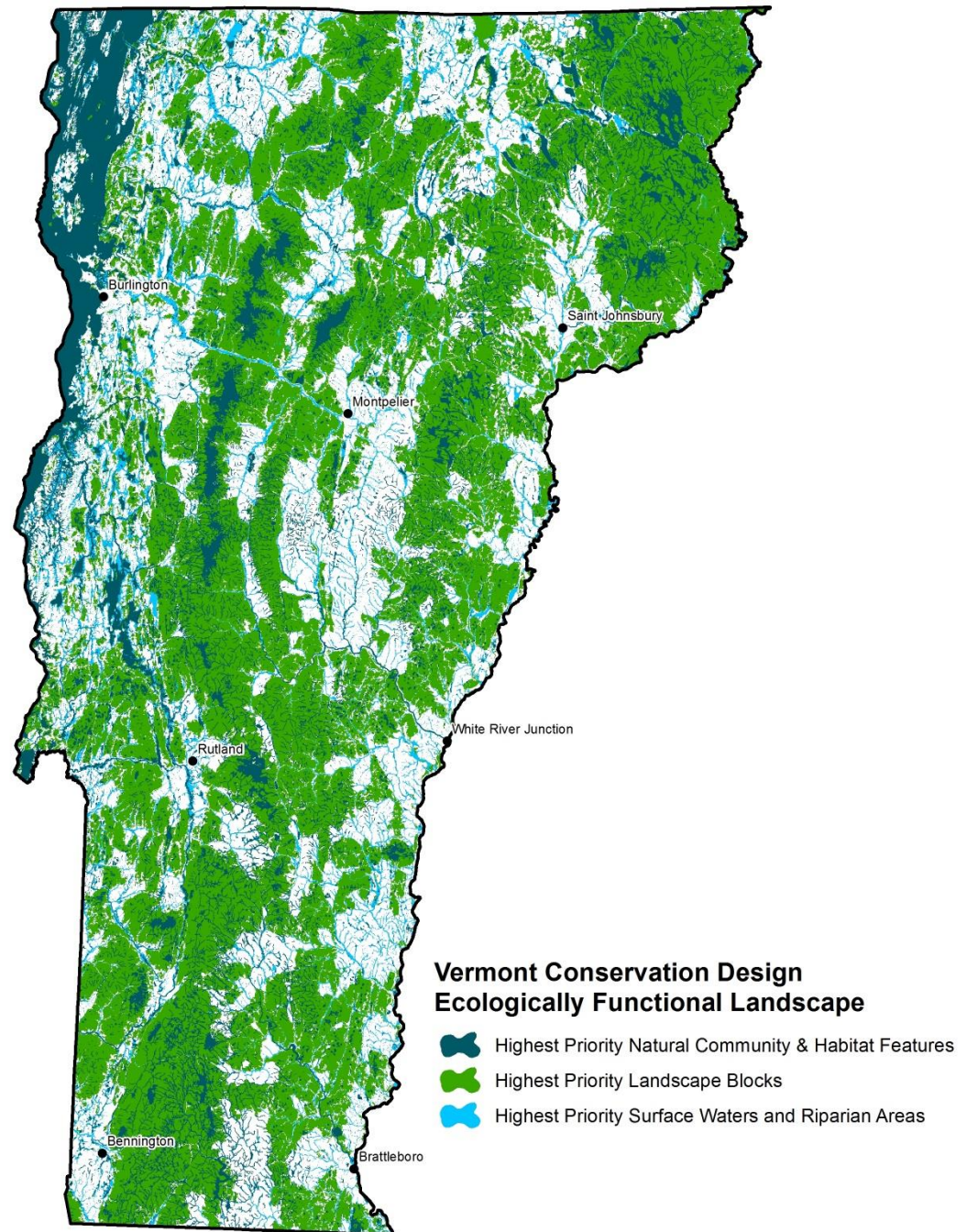
Conservation Design

VT Fish and Wildlife Dept. lead

Ecologically Functional Landscape

- Intact
- Connected
- Diverse

A set of coarse-filter features which, if appropriately conserved and managed for their ecological functions, offer high confidence in maintaining biological diversity and ecological processes into the future.



Conservation Design at Three Scales

Landscapes



Natural Communities



Species



Interior Forest Blocks
Connectivity Blocks
Surface Waters and Riparian Areas
Riparian Areas for Connectivity
Physical Landscapes
Wildlife Road Crossings

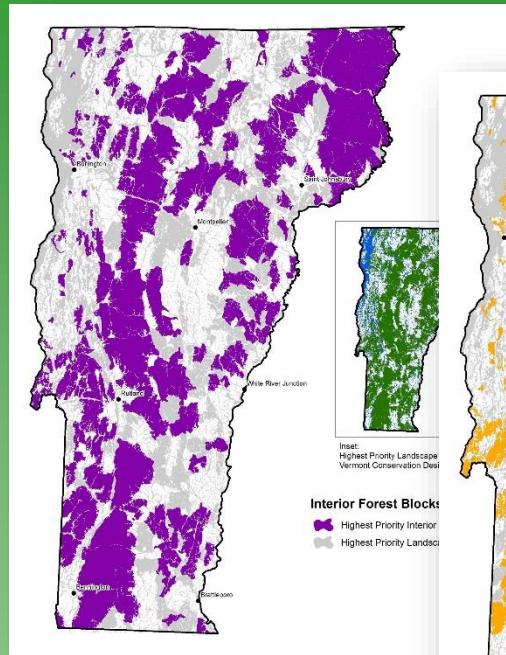
Natural Communities
Young and Old Forest
Aquatic Habitats
Wetlands
Grasslands/Shrublands
Underground Habitats

Species with very specific biological needs that will likely always require individual attention

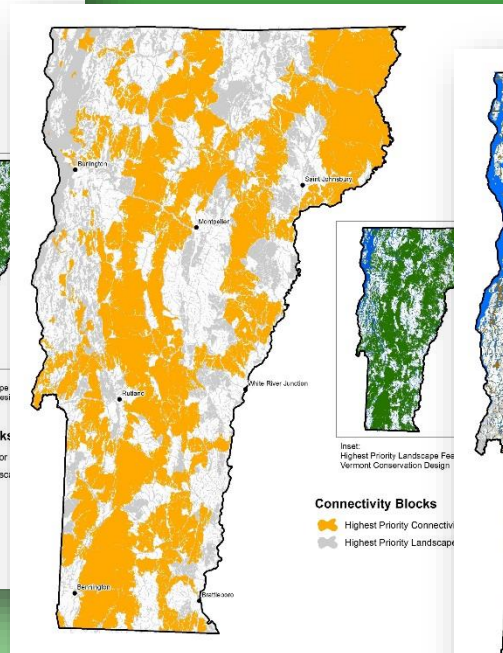
Different forms of conservation are appropriate for each feature. Some already have lots of attention, such as wetlands and floodplains.

Intact and Connected Forest Blocks Surface Waters and Riparian Areas

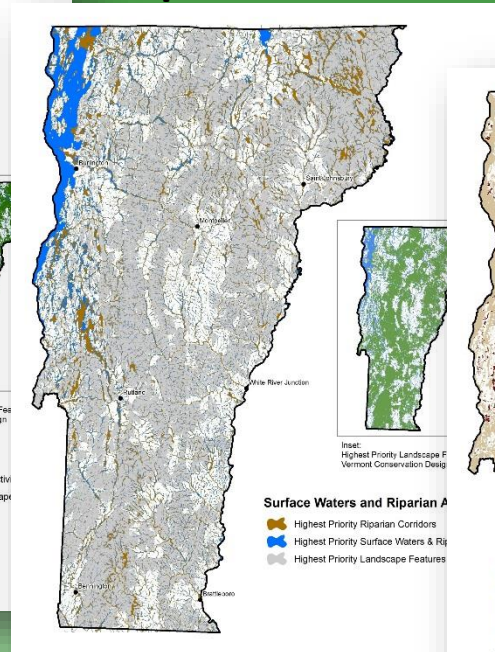
Interior Forest Blocks



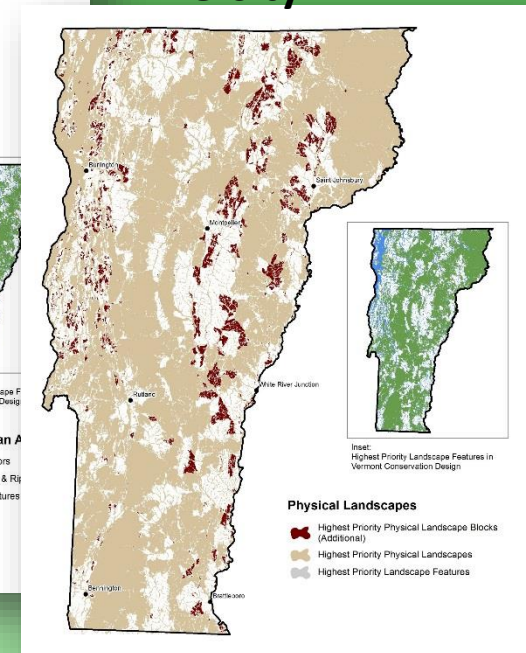
Connectivity Blocks



Surface Waters and Riparian Areas



Physical Landscape Diversity



Maintain the specific functions of each element

Wildlife Road Crossings