

Connect the Coast

Linking wildlife across New Hampshire's seacoast and beyond
(2019)

Summary:

Connect the Coast is a modeling/mapping tool that identifies prioritized blocks of habitat and important wildlife movement corridors that together create a connected landscape for wildlife. Protecting these areas through conservation can help ensure our native species are able to move over time to

improve adaptability to climate change and habitat fragmentation. This tool also identifies sections of roads that are high priority crossings areas for wildlife. Note that the project focuses on the Piscataqua-Salmon Falls watershed of NH.

Keywords:

- Wildlife Corridor
- Habitat Management
- Land Protection
- Climate Change
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Mapping Tool

Key Points:

- Climate change is shifting the distribution of suitable habitat as temperature and precipitation change. Maintaining a connected habitat corridors is the best way to ensure wildlife species can move over time to adapt to these changes.
- Nearly 50% of the prioritized habitat blocks for wildlife are preserved while only 13% of important connecting corridors are protected. Managing both together protects more intact habitat.
- Connect the Coast map information can be accessed on the [NH Coastal Viewer](#) under the category "Environment and Conservation," with the subheading "Other Wildlife Data."
- Copies of the map for Dover (in PDF format) are also available at this [LINK](#).
- The model was developed based on habitat needs for 11 focal species to broaden applicability.

Suggested Uses:

- Incorporate Connect the Coast priorities into land use review, transportation planning/upgrades, municipal planning documents and identification of land conservation priorities.
- Permanently protect land that will support the network of connected lands through fee acquisition, conservation easement, or deed restriction.
- Inform landowners of the connectivity values that their land provides at both local and regional scales.
- Incorporate best management practices for wildlife road barrier mitigation at priority road segments.
- See more suggested uses on p. 29.



Example Tables and Online Viewer

Table 5: Summary of the extent and percent of prioritized habitat blocks used as model nodes within the Connect THE Coast (CTC) project area by state, and their conservation status.

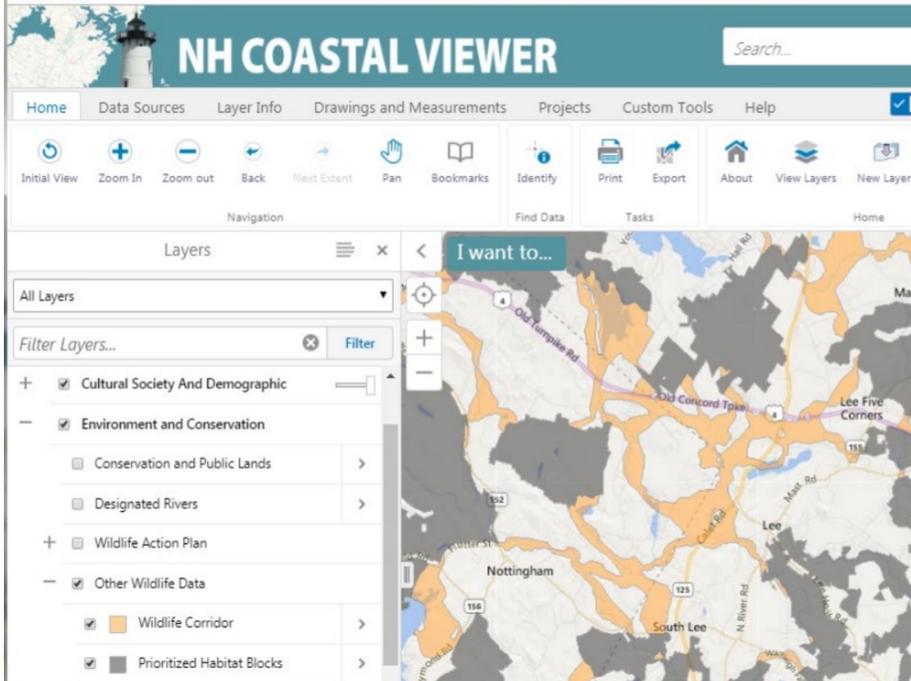
State	Area of Prioritized Habitat Blocks (Acres)	Percent of State's CTC Project Area	Area of Prioritized Habitat Block Conserved* (Acres)	Percent of Prioritized Habitat Block Conserved*
MA	10,761	9.9%	6,421	59.7%
NH	230,478	20.5%	115,248	50.0%
ME	78,903	17.3%	37,176	47.1%
PROJECT AREA	320,142	18.9%	158,845	49.6%

*Based on GAP Status codes of 1, 2, and 3's. GAP Status codes were updated for unattributed records using other conservation land attributes where possible.

Table 6: Summary of the extent and percent of wildlife corridor areas within the Connect THE Coast project area by state, and the conservation status of the corridors.

State	CTC Corridor Area (Acres)	Percent of State's CTC Project Area	Corridor Area Conserved* (Acres)	Percent of Corridor Area Conserved*
MA	10,249	9.5%	2,596	25.3%
NH	114,410	10.2%	14,652	12.8%
ME	45,109	9.9%	5,374	11.9%
PROJECT AREA	169,767	10.0%	22,621	13.3%

*Based on GAP Status codes of 1, 2, and 3's. GAP Status codes were updated for unattributed records using other conservation land attributes where possible.



Report Authors: Peter Steckler (The Nature Conservancy, NH) and Dea Brickner Wood (Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership)
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New Hampshire
Coastal Program

