

Connect The Coast: Wildlife Connectivity Plan for Southeast New Hampshire Complete!

The Nature Conservancy and the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, in partnership with over 15 contributing organizations, are excited to announce the completion of a wildlife connectivity plan that spans the Seacoast Region, connects west to the Merrimack River, and north to the Lakes Region.

Titled *Connect The Coast*, this project identifies a network of connecting lands that are a priority for maintaining regional opportunities for wildlife to move across the landscape, especially in the face of continuing habitat loss and a changing climate. The project team focused on meeting the movement needs of upland species like bobcat, fisher, and New England cottontail, as well as river and wetland associated species like otter, Blanding's and spotted turtles.

Connect The Coast also identifies priority wildlife road crossings to enhance wildlife passage and improve safety for motorists. The project's final report (at www.nature.org/CTCreport) includes instructions for viewing Connect The Coast mapping online using the NH Coastal Viewer, and includes links to downloadable PDF maps of project results for each town within the project area.

For more information, contact <u>Pete Steckler</u> at The Nature Conservancy.