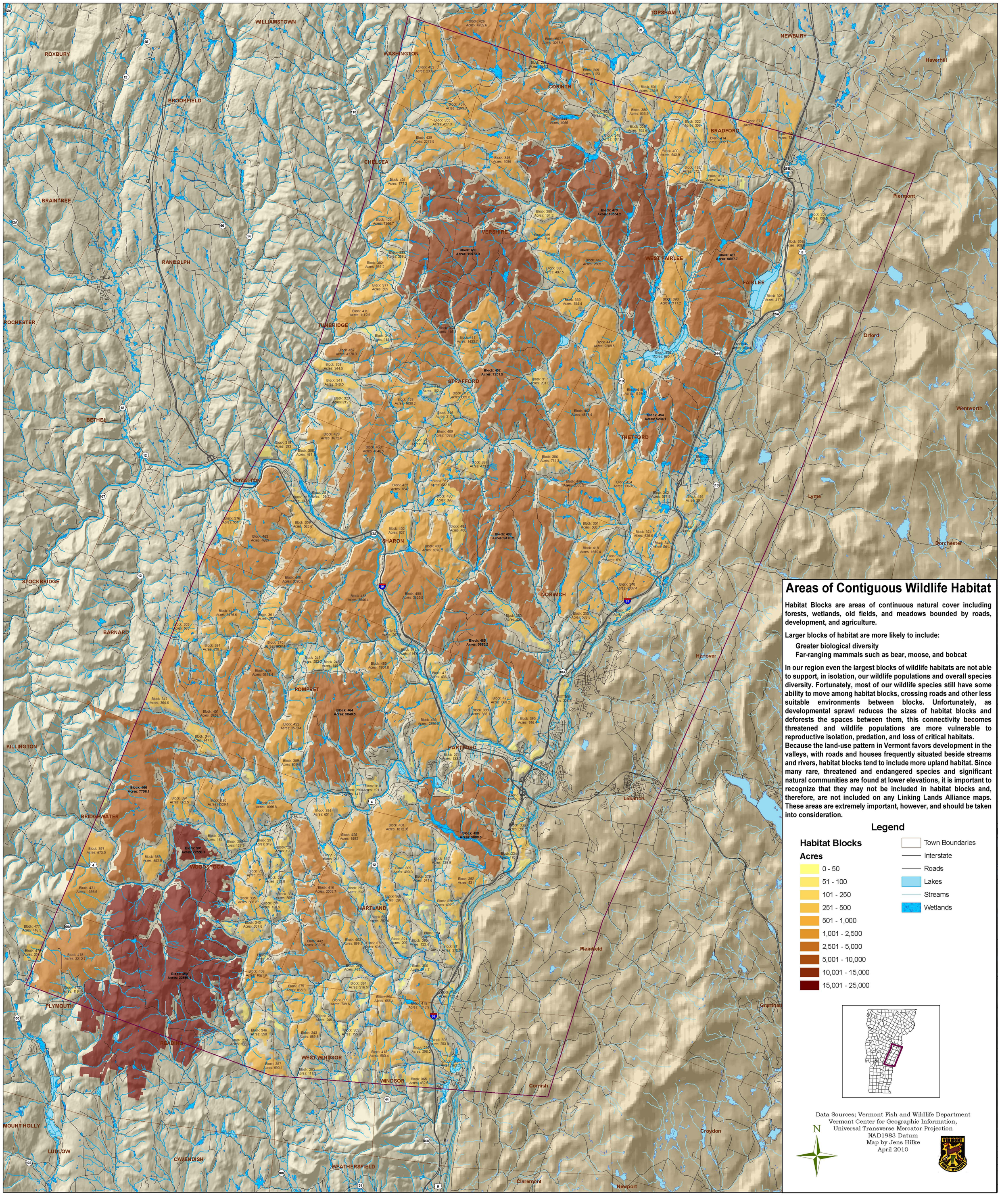
Areas of Contiguous Wildlife Habitat
Linking Lands Alliance



Areas of Contiguous Wildlife Habitat

Habitat Blocks are areas of continuous natural cover including forests, wetlands, old fields, and meadows bounded by roads, development, and agriculture.

Larger blocks of habitat are more likely to include:

- **Greater biological diversity**
- **Far-ranging mammals such as bear, moose, and bobcat**

In our region even the largest blocks of wildlife habitats are not able to support, in isolation, our wildlife populations and overall species diversity. Fortunately, most of our wildlife species still have some ability to move among habitat blocks, crossing roads and other less suitable environments between blocks. Unfortunately, as developmental sprawl reduces the sizes of habitat blocks and deforests the spaces between them, this connectivity becomes threatened and wildlife populations are more vulnerable to reproductive isolation, predation, and loss of critical habitats.

Because the land-use pattern in Vermont favors development in the valleys, with roads and houses frequently situated beside streams and rivers, habitat blocks tend to include more upland habitat. Since many rare, threatened and endangered species and significant natural communities are found at lower elevations, it is important to recognize that they may not be included in habitat blocks and, therefore, are not included on any Linking Lands Alliance maps. These areas are extremely important, however, and should be taken into consideration.

Legend

Habitat Blocks

Acres

- 0 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 2,500
- 2,501 - 5,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- 10,001 - 15,000
- 15,001 - 25,000

- Town Boundaries
- Interstate
- Roads
- Lakes
- Streams
- Wetlands

Data Sources; Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
Vermont Center for Geographic Information,
Universal Transverse Mercator Projection
NAD1983 Datum
Map by Jens Hilke
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