Three Borders Linkage
A transboundary connectivity project

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Two Countries, One Forest
Deux Pays, Une forêt

2C1Forest is a major Canadian-U.S. collaborative of 50 conservation organizations, researchers, and foundations working to conserve and restore the forests and natural heritage of the Northern Appalachian/Acadian ecoregion.

- We think at an ecoregional level, and within ecological borders versus political boundaries;
- We work at defining a clear framework of understanding and developing a network that facilitates and supports a cross-border sharing of vital information;
- We use the principles of science-based, landscape-scale conservation to achieve our goals; and
- We act as a catalyst for emerging transboundary projects.
Human Footprint of the Northern Appalachian/Acadian Ecoregion (2C1F 2008)

Human Footprint = Normalized HII
35.8% is wild (HF <= 10)
8.6% HF = 0
Connectivity - Local Connectedness (TNC 2012)
Staying Connected Tools

- Five major tools in the linkages:
  - Conservation Science
  - Land Protection
  - Road Barrier Mitigation
  - Land-use Planning
  - Outreach and Education

- Different partners take leadership for one or more of the tools.

- Tools are applied in different ways in each linkage.
Lessons learned from the Northern Green Mountains
Northern Green Mountain Linkage
Since 2002

- Several partners involved
  - Appalachian Corridor, Québec
  - Nature Conservancy of Canada
  - Cold Hollow to Canada, Vermont
  - Environmental groups
  - Local and regional land trusts

- Mt Orford Focus Area
  - Campaign to prevent land transfer from protected to development
  - Expansion of provincial park

- Sutton-Jay Focus Area
  - Private land protection by fee simple acquisitions or easements
  - Community values mapping
  - Land-use planning
  - Road Mitigation

- Stowe-Sterling Focus Area
Defining Priority Pathways 2011

- VERMONT
  - Science and overall coordination, outreach and education (TWN)
  - Land use planning support (VNRC, VFWD)
  - Land protection (VLT, TPL, NWT)
  - Road barrier mitigation

- QUEBEC
  - Science and overall coordination, outreach and education (AC)
  - Land use planning support (AC)
  - Land protection (NCC and 13 local land trusts)
  - Highway 10 Mitigation (AC, government Transportation and Wildlife agencies)
Getting started in the Three Borders Linkage
Specifics of the Three Borders Linkage

- Maine, Quebec, New-Brunswick;
- Lead by state or provincial organizations;
- Targets species are different in composition and abundance;
- Collision with vehicles more deadly;
- Major Highway (QC-185, 2-NB) being upgraded from one-lane to two-lane;
- Livelihood based on agriculture and forestry;
- Hunting and fishing is an important part of the local economy;
- Large tracks of public land.
Lessons learned

- Community values mapping and involvement of key stakeholders will be a core mover in this linkage;
- Land planning approach as in Vermont would be better suited to this linkage;
- Still remains an opportunity to plan for functional pathways and crossings in Quebec;
- Great opportunity to evaluate connectivity issues and to monitor actual and future road mitigation scenarios;
- Chance to influence protected area planning on public land by governments (QC, NB);
- Conservation and working forest easement language to include connectivity measures for private landowners.
Northern Maine to the Gaspe Linkage Area

Measure: A2a - Habitat Patterns and Distribution within Linkage Area
Indicators: Average Resistant Kernel Score and % Area RK ≥ 50

Resistant Kernel Stats within the Linkage
Average RK Score = 64 (scores range 0-99)
Percentage of Linkage Area with RK Score ≥ 50 = 76% (4.4 M of 5.8M acres)
Achievements 2013/2014

 Outreach
   Organized several meeting and presented project to more than 20 organizations and agencies to seek their support;

 Conservation Science
   Acquired data on specific pathways or the broader area from many stakeholders;
   Organized workshops (Forestry BMP for connectivity; Road mitigation strategies and knowledge gaps for this linkage);
   NCC-QC has drafted a 5-year conservation plan for this area with specific actions addressing connectivity (2013-2017);
   In it’s 2013-2017 business plan for the NAP Whole System, TNC is committed to sustain a coordinated partnership network that includes Canadian entities to work on key linkages.

 Land Protection
   NCC-QC and 2C1Forest drafted recommendations to the Quebec government on protected area planning in this area and the importance of considering connectivity
Construction d'une autoroute dans l'axe de la **ROUTE 185** entre la frontière du Nouveau-Brunswick et Cabano

**Figure 1.1 : Localisation et contexte du projet à l'étude dans la région du Bas-Saint-Laurent**

- 33 kilomètres de construction
- Avant-projet et étude d'impact en cours

**Étude d'impact sur l'environnement**

*Source : Ministère des Transports, MRC Témiscouata.*
Achievements 2013/2014

- Road Barrier Mitigation
  Upgrade the TransCanada Highway, includes fencing and moose/deer passages in road sections of high wildlife-vehicle collision risks. How these help maintain connectivity for ungulate populations and other mid to large mammals was not part of their mitigation plans.
  - Meetings with Department of Transportation on how they can support a project to address landscape scale connectivity issues for a broader spectrum of species;
  - Planning a cross border workshop to discuss best practices to facilitate and monitor wildlife crossings and landscape-scale connectivity;
  - On-going discussion with other organizations and researchers to contribute to data acquisition and analysis including: least-cost path analysis; aerial and field surveys; camera monitoring of existing wildlife crossing; GPS or radio tracking to study Canada lynx movement.
Challenges

- Getting other stakeholders to share data and expertise across borders;
- Having communities include conservation of pathways in their land use plans;
- Securing resources for long term monitoring of wildlife crossings and pathways;
- Building a public awareness program;
- Getting connectivity measures to be part of forest certification on public land.
Cross Border Partnerships Work:

- As long as goals are clear and organizations stay focus;
- Communicate often;
- Share issues, data, knowledge and expertise;
- When possible, make joint grant applications with reasonable deliverables;
- If they respect each others working context.
Thank You
Merci

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