



Worcesters-to-Kingdom linkage conservation project launches

Key east-west wildlife corridor in Vermont to gain increased attention

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Contacts: Chip Knight, National Wildlife Federation, 802-552-4331, KnightC@nwf.org
Jens Hilke, Vermont Fish & Wildlife 802-476-0126

GREENSBORO, Vermont – Spearheaded by the Northeast Regional Center of the National Wildlife Federation and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, a conservation project designed to provide wildlife habitat protection for an important area of northern Vermont kicked off Jan. 20 in Greensboro.

More than a dozen diverse stakeholders attended the launch of the “Staying Connected – Worcesters-to-Northeast Kingdom” project – a 30-town initiative designed to safeguard key wildlife habitats within a large area of land inhabited by creatures big and small, from moose and black bear to warblers and salamanders. A wide range of partners – including local conservation commissions and hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation groups – are joining in the effort that will incorporate some conservation work currently underway in the region.

“This area acts as sort of a Grand Central Station for wildlife moving through the Northern Forest,” said Chip Knight, leader of the National Wildlife Federation work on the Worcesters-to-Northeast Kingdom project. “We’ve got our own wildlife transportation hub right here in Central Vermont, and it’s one of the few remaining places where northeastern wildlife can roam and thrive, but only if we protect it.”

Knight, a three-time Olympic alpine skier, will organize and lead a series of public gatherings and conversations with groups and individuals interested in maintaining and enhancing the biological integrity, recreational opportunities and local values within the region. A schedule of public events will be announced soon.

The project is part of a regional Staying Connected initiative across the Northeast, and will build on work already being done in the area by landowners as well as national, regional, statewide and local conservation and outdoor recreation organizations.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has identified the area as important because it provides quality areas for animals to move across roads, through relatively undeveloped lands, and between identified patches of critical upland and lowland habitats.

Sitting as a crossroads for wildlife, the Worcester Mountain range is a largely undeveloped subsidiary range to Vermont’s Green Mountains. Stretching from the central Vermont town of Middlesex, north and east toward Elmore, the Worcesters have been identified by biologists as

an important corridor for flora and fauna, as they connect the Green Mountains to the largely undeveloped forests of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.



The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. The mission of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.