



## Wildlife Habitat Linkage Assessments

### Instruction Sheet

Today, you will assess a road section to test its viability as a linkage. Hooray for habitat connectivity!



To access the assessment form and other materials, visit our Resources tab at [followtheforest.org](https://followtheforest.org)

Google Form: <https://forms.gle/m7q3fZKesQAZiJZj9> Linkages Map: <https://arcg.is/yWTme>

**Why is your volunteer work so important?** Because you can help us identify high priority areas for conservation by evaluating barriers and pathways for habitat connectivity.

We are looking at **pinch-points** where wildlife movement becomes funneled within linkages. As climate change escalates, pinch-points are areas that, if further developed, could disproportionately restrict movement.

Our goal is to maintain **habitat connectivity** through strategic conservation. Wildlife relies on habitat connectivity to migrate seasonally, maintain genetic flow, and access food, water, and shelter.

**Who is migrating?** Bears, bobcats, spotted salamanders, deer ... the list goes on. Did you know trees migrate too? Successive generations of trees are on the move, as they too adapt to climate change.

#### Instructions:

- Using our Linkages Map, search for linkages near you. You can use the search bar or turn on your location using the  icon.
- Identify the “Linkage ID” by clicking on the red oval and the “Core Forest ID#s” by clicking on adjoining forest cores.
- Turn on different map layers to view parcels and protected lands.
- Before you leave, make sure to print out the assessment form to fill out as you go along.
- When you get home, enter your findings into our Google Form.
- To redefine the linkage area, draw new ovals on the map using the  icon. If you do, please let us know in the “additional notes” section of the assessment form.

For additional help using the linkages map, refer to this instructional video: [coming soon](#)

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*The Follow the Forest Initiative seeks to connect and protect core forests and promote the safe passage of wildlife throughout the Northeast — from the Hudson Valley to the forests of Canada.*