



# Wildlife Habitat Linkage Assessments

## Instruction Sheet

Assess a road section to explore its viability as a wildlife linkage.  
Thank you to all our community scientists!



To access the assessment form and other materials, visit [followtheforest.org](http://followtheforest.org)  
Linkages Map: <https://arcg.is/10TOLK>

### Introduction

**Why is your volunteer work so important?** You can help us identify priority areas for conservation by evaluating barriers faced by migrating wildlife and by envisioning solutions to improve habitat connectivity.

Our model focuses on **pinch-points** where wildlife movement becomes funneled between forests. Pinch-points are areas that, if further developed, could disproportionately restrict wildlife 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, fishers, spotted salamanders ... 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

#### Before you go:

- Search for linkages near you using the Linkages Map. Use the search bar or turn on your location. 
- Identify the Linkage ID by clicking on the orange oval, and the Core Forest IDs by clicking on the closest forest cores. Turn on map layers to view parcels and protected lands.
- **Print the map and bring it with you to reference and re-draw linkages as needed in the field.**

#### Bring with you:

- Printed assessment form and linkage map
- Reflective vest
- Clipboard and pencil
- Phone or camera (include your pictures in your submission)

#### While Assessing the linkage:

- Think critically about how wildlife are moving between the forest cores on the landscape.
- Include details in the notes sections of the assessment form, as this helps us understand your choices.
- If there are multiple pinch points or road crossings within the linkage, please fill out one form for each.

#### When you get back:

- Enter your findings digitally and send them to us.
- If you drew on your paper map to redefine the linkage area, take a picture and include it with your submission.

For additional help using the linkages map, refer to this instructional video: coming soon.