



# Forests, Wildlife & Communities Project: Working from Woodlots to Landscapes to Conserve Vermont's Wildlife.

**A partnership of:** Audubon Vermont, Vermont Coverts, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Northern Forest Alliance and you.

**The Eastern Bobcat, the Wood Turtle, the Brook Trout and the Black-throated Blue Warbler...** these species and more share a common need; they all depend on Vermont's forests for their survival, requiring a large blocks of healthy forests to survive. Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan, developed by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and over 70 conservation organizations, identifies these species and more as "Species of Greatest Conservation Need". The plan identifies habitat loss due to degradation, conversion and fragmentation as one of the leading threats to all of Vermont's Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

**The Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project** is a partnership among Audubon Vermont, Vermont Coverts, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Northern Forest Alliance, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department created to address the multi-level threats leading to forest habitat loss. The goal is to maintain large blocks of forest habitat by creating a coordinated approach to wildlife education and conservation. The project maximizes the unique skills each organization brings to the challenge of protecting Vermont's wildlife by producing a series of landowner workshops and habitat assessments, community mapping and conservation planning sessions, and town forest celebrations to promote the conservation of forest habitat.

**The Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project** team offers multiple strategies for towns and conservation commissions and individuals to support Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan. Specifically the FWC team can offer the following technical support:

- 1) Provide technical workshops to landowners that will explain habitat management strategies, wildlife monitoring, estate planning, and available federal and state technical assistance programs, and offer follow-up one-on-one habitat assessments of forest parcels.
- 2) Develop non-regulatory strategies and model language for town plans, zoning and subdivision bylaws that can be incorporated into the local planning process to reduce forest fragmentation and conserve wildlife habitat.
- 3) Establish wildlife habitat management demonstrations and educational programs on town-owned forests as a way to engage the broader community about habitat conservation.

**The Forests, Wildlife & Communities Project** has selected two regional areas in Vermont to serve as pilot projects. Please contact the project leaders below to learn about technical support opportunities.

### Community Planning & Mapping:

Jamey Fidel, Vermont Natural Resources Council: 802-223-2328 ext. 117 jfidel@vnrc.org  
Jens Hilke, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department: 802-476-0126 Jens.Hilke@state.vt.us

### Landowner Workshops & Technical Assistance:

Lisa Sausville, Vermont Coverts: 802-349-6803 lisa@vtcoverts.org  
Jim Shallow, Audubon Vermont: 802-434-3068 jshallow@audubon.org

### Town Forests:

George Gay, Northern Forest Alliance: 802-253-8227 ext. 11 ggay@nfainfo.org

