



Wildlife Habitat Linkage Assessment Form

Terrestrial Road Crossings

How to Use This Form

- Consider how wildlife moves across the landscape and what barriers present themselves along the way.
- As conditions allow, we recommend walking the linkage. If you choose to drive, pull over in safe locations to document conditions.
- Bring a print-out of the map with your linkage and edit the oval based on your observations of where wildlife can move.
- If you identify distinct, separate areas within the linkage, fill out one form for each distinct area.
- Include details and descriptions in the notes sections.

Make sure you **take photos** along the way, **fill out this form**, and **draw on your map**.

When you return home, fill out the digital PDF form accessible through <https://followtheforest.org/programs/>



Preparer's name(s): _____

Date: _____

Location: Town of _____

Road section: _____

Potential Linkage ID: _____

Linking Core Forest ID #(s): _____

Is there protected land within the linkage? (refer to online map) Yes No

Is this linkage: funneled into a pinch point -or- an area where wildlife movement is spread out?

If there are multiple pinch points, please fill out one form for each.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Speed limit: _____ mph

How many lanes? 1 2 4

Road surface: Paved Gravel Dirt Other: _____

Traffic: None Little Fairly Busy Very Busy

Notes: _____

DEVELOPMENT

Amount of development (houses, other structures): None Little Scattered Dense

Would wildlife need to travel close to buildings, possibly using backyards? Y N

Notes: _____

Signs of Wildlife. *Feel free to include photos of the road kill or tracks when you submit.*

Did you observe any road kill? Y N Did you observe any tracks in the snow or mud? Y N

Describe any other signs of wildlife: _____



ROADSIDE VEGETATION (within approximately 50 feet).

Circle what you observe on either side of the road within the linkage. **Please elaborate in the space below.**

Forest Wetland: forested or herbaceous Vernal Pool Farmland: hay, corn, or pasture Open Field Lawn Powerlines Water Other

Observation area with a dashed yellow line representing the road.

Forest Wetland: forested or herbaceous Vernal Pool Farmland: hay, corn, or pasture Open Field Lawn Powerlines Water Other

Is the tree canopy closed (could squirrels cross)? Y N Are there dense patches of plants? Y N

Can you spot any invasive plants? _____

Has there been: mowing brush clearing pruning tree clearing

Describe the forest along the road: _____

Additional Notes: _____

BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE PASSAGE - Do any of these impede wildlife movement?

Steep Embankments Fences Retaining walls Guardrails Drainage Ditch Fast Running Water Parallel to the Road

Observation area with a dashed yellow line representing the road.

Steep Embankments Fences Retaining walls Guardrails Drainage Ditch Fast Running Water Parallel to the Road

Describe barriers to passage: _____

CULVERT OR BRIDGE Does the linkage include? Bridge(s) Culvert(s) **If yes, see below.**

Bridge underpass or Culvert: _____ height _____ width Approximate depth of the water: _____ feet

Is the water moving: not at all slowly rapidly

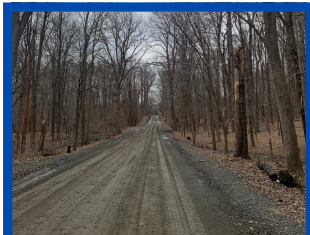
Could it be passable by: moose bear. deer bobcat fisher small critters

Does the culvert have a large drop off that would impede wildlife movement (perched culvert)? Y N

Notes. Are there multiple bridges/culverts? _____

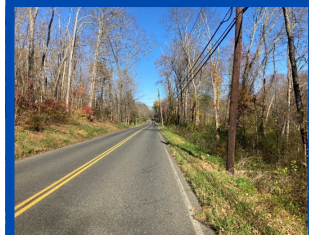
How did you assess the linkage: walking driving both other: _____

RATING THE LINKAGE: Circle a linkage score based on all the information you collected, and describe your choice. Pictures are included as examples, but other factors may play into the linkage score.



EXCELLENT

Linkage presents few barriers to wildlife passage with largely undisturbed forest on both sides.



GOOD

Some obstacles, forest is slightly compromised on one or both sides. Shows promise as linkage.



FAIR

Many obstacles, forest is significantly compromised, but certain sections show promise as linkage.



POOR

Forest fragmentation and barriers to passage make this a tenuous or inadequate linkage.

What wildlife do you think might use this linkage, why? What wildlife would struggle to use this linkage, why?

Tell us about your rating choice:

Challenges and Solutions to Promote Safe Wildlife Crossing

What stands out as a significant obstacle for wildlife crossing (i.e. fast moving traffic, steep rock faces, etc.)?

How can wildlife passage be improved? land protection reduce speed limit wildlife bridge/overpass

culvert habitat restoration other: _____

Describe: _____

Do you have anything else to add or prior knowledge of this area? _____

And last but never least, did you spot anything fun, weird, or noteworthy while assessing the linkage? _____

To learn more, visit followtheforest.org