

Jon Leibowitz – Executive Director

NORTHEAST



WILDERNESS
TRUST

FOREVER-WILD CONSERVATION

What, Why, and How

Burnt Mountain CE, VT | Zack Porter

Jon Leibowitz – Executive Director

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FOREVER-WILD CONSERVATION

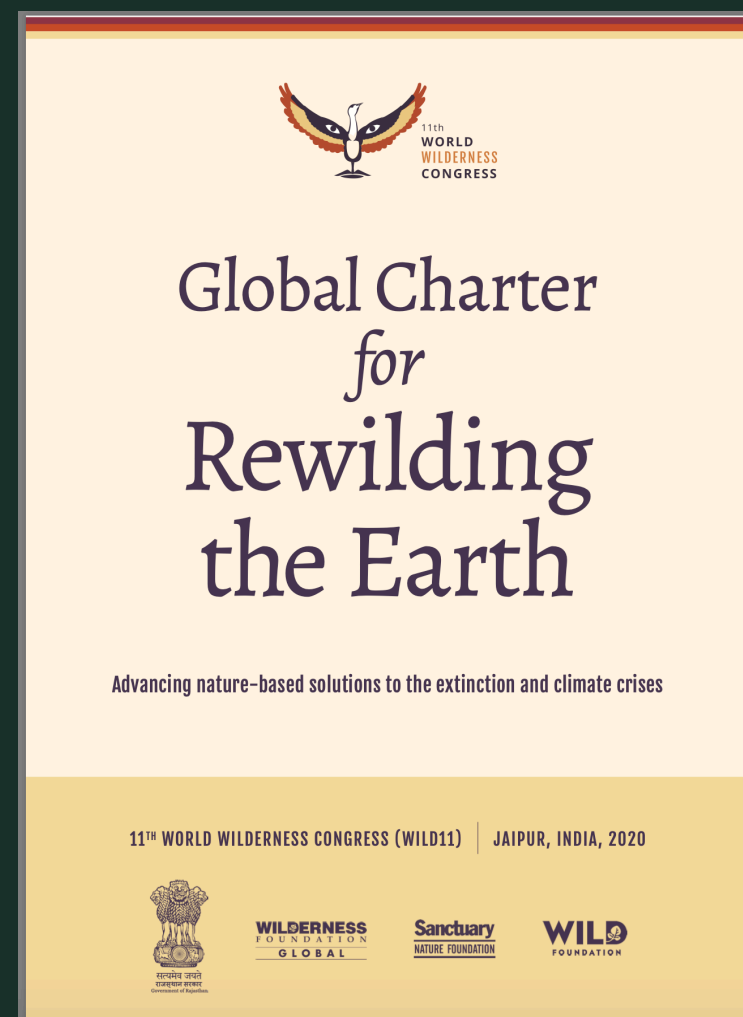
What, Why, and How



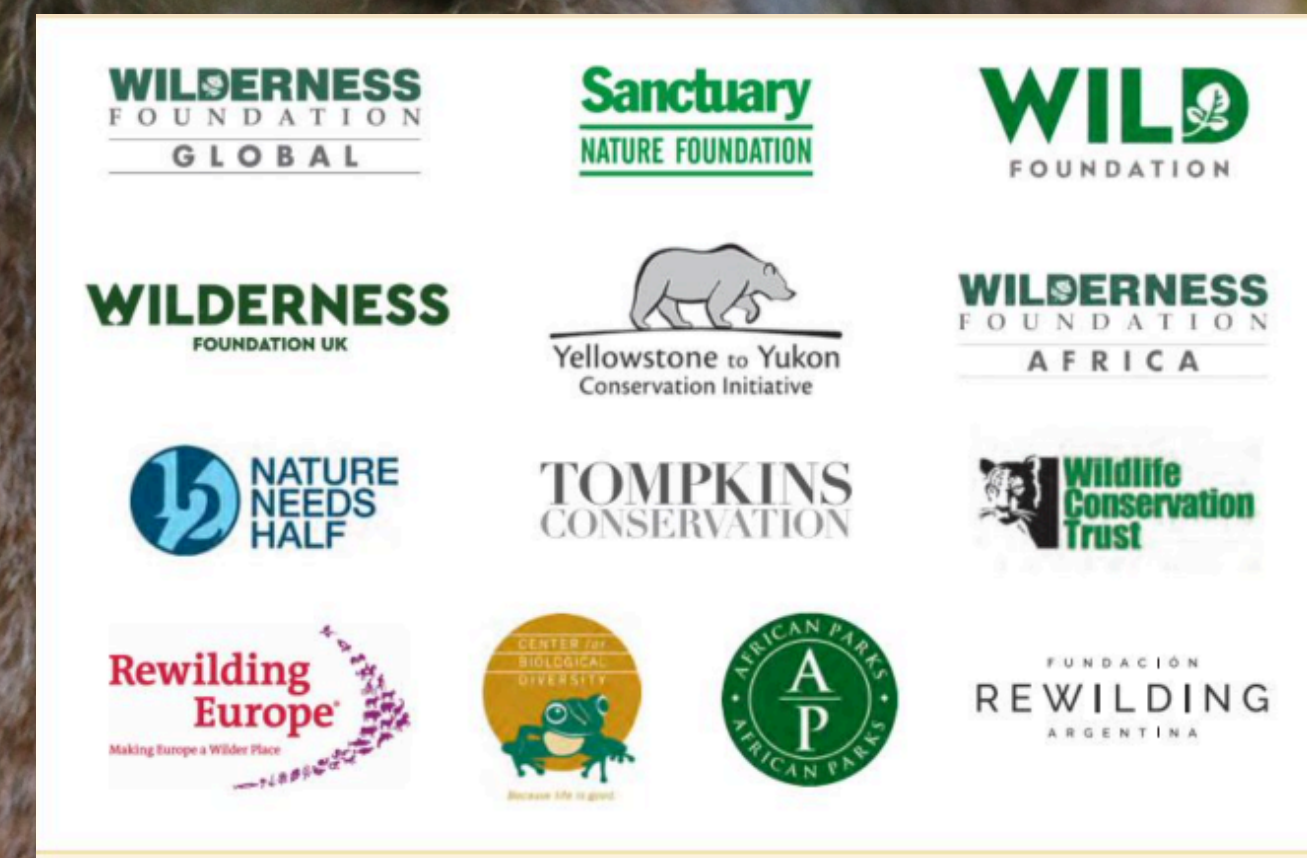
Rewilding

Rewilding restores ecosystems and the life-supporting functions they provide.

Rewilding is...healing the land.



Vision: We believe that the world can be more beautiful, more diverse, more equitable, more *wild*. We believe that nature's innate resilience, bolstered by human care, can initiate an era of planetary healing. In that future time when the world is whole and healthy, undammed rivers will run to the sea, their estuaries teeming with life. Following ancient patterns, whales and warblers will migrate unmolested through sea and sky. From tiny phytoplankton to tallest redwoods, all Earth's creatures will be free to pursue lives of quality, and humanity will thrive amidst nature's abundance.



Young Lynx | Sue Morse

Wildlands in Context

How much conservation exists?



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Wildlands in Context

How much *wildlands* conservation exists?



Wildlands in Context

How much *wildlands*
conservation exists *in Vermont*?

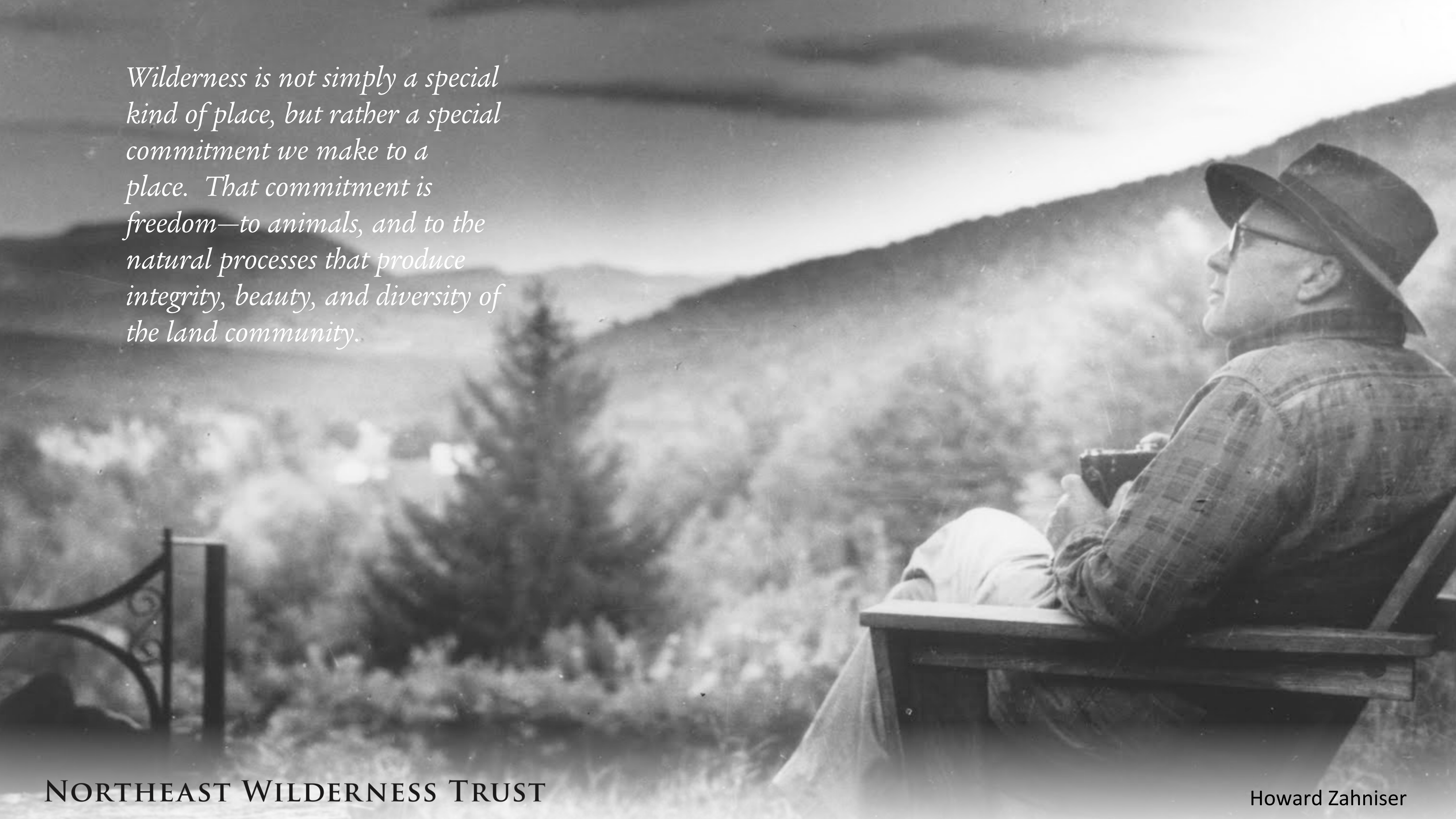


**Lands with Wilderness
Level Protection (Gap1)
below 2000' (600m) in elevation
shown in Green**

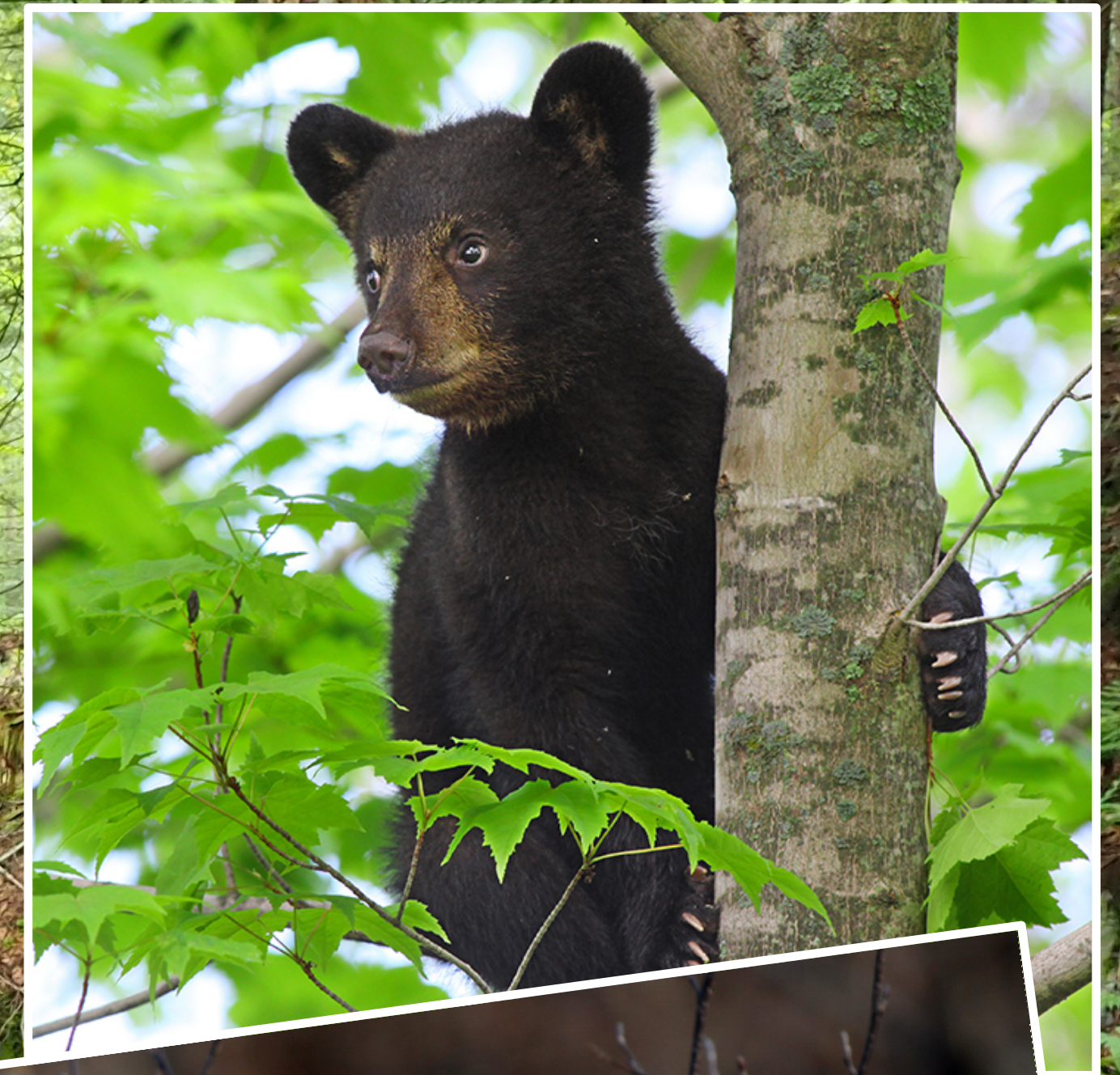
Data courtesy of TNC VT
Secured Areas Database
Circa 2019

What *is* Wilderness?





Wilderness is not simply a special kind of place, but rather a special commitment we make to a place. That commitment is freedom—to animals, and to the natural processes that produce integrity, beauty, and diversity of the land community.



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Babysitter Swamp, VT | *Shelby Perry*



Why?

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Proposed Grafton Forest Wilderness Preserve, ME | *Jerry Monkman, EcoPhotography*

Why?



Biodiversity



Resilience



Carbon Storage



Reciprocity



Wild Carbon

Conclusion 1:

Trees accumulate carbon over their entire lifespan.

Conclusion 2:

Old Forests accumulate carbon and
What does it all mean?
contain vast quantities of it.

Conserving unmanaged wild forests is a
Old Forests are useful, scalable, and cost-effective
complementary strategy to continued
conservation of well-managed forests.

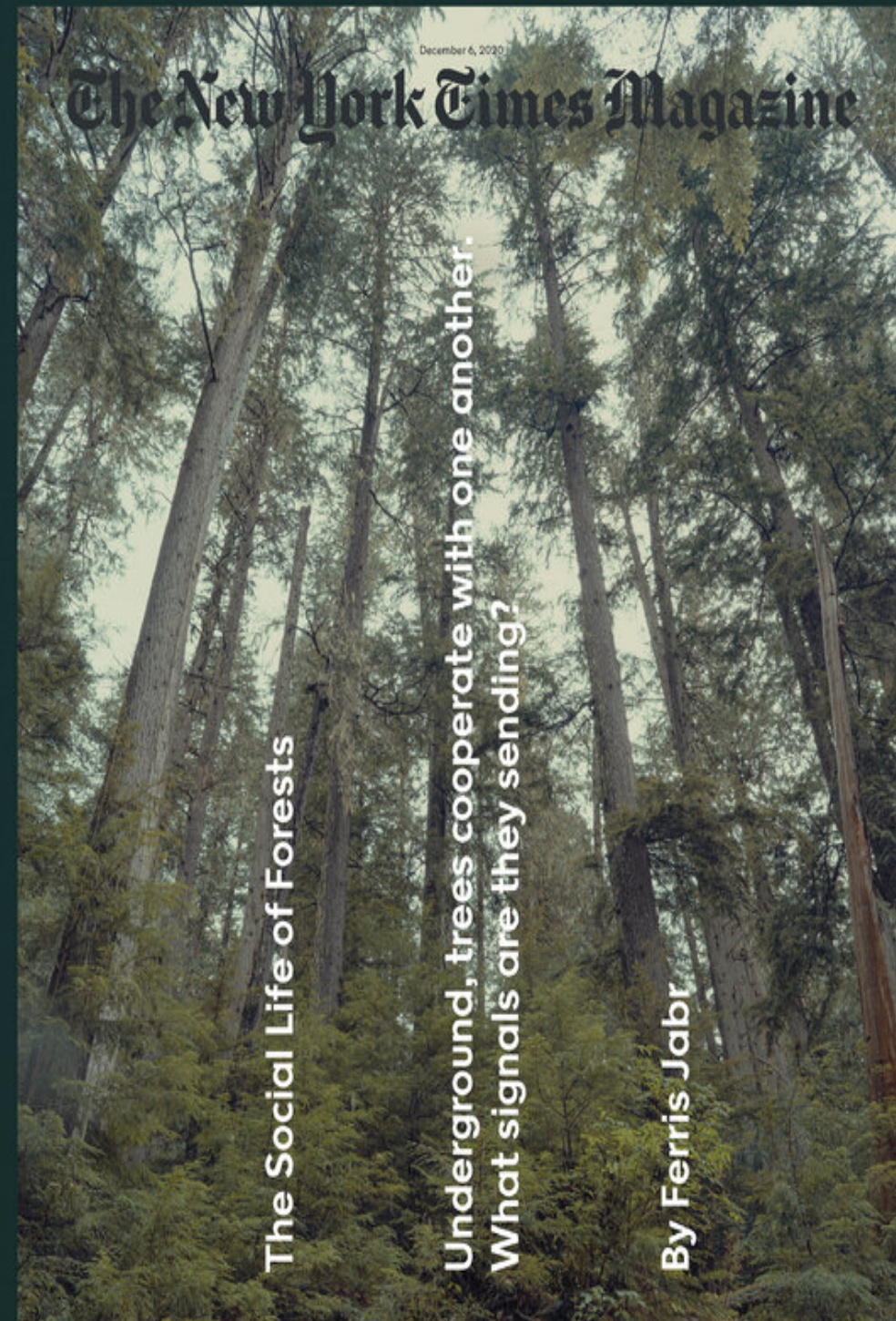
Conclusion 4:

Forests share carbon among and between
tree species.

Conclusion 5:

Forest carbon can help slow climate
change.

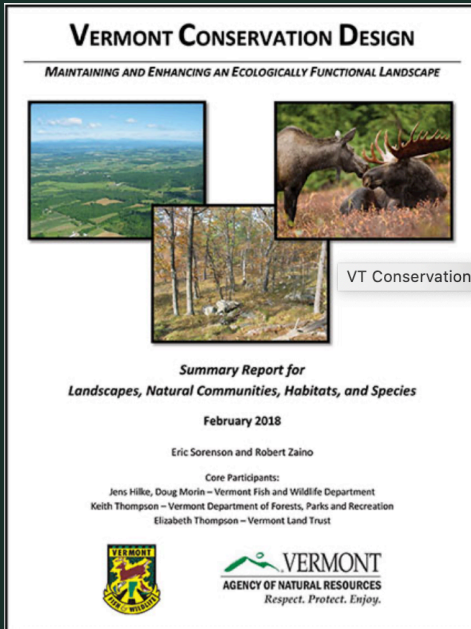




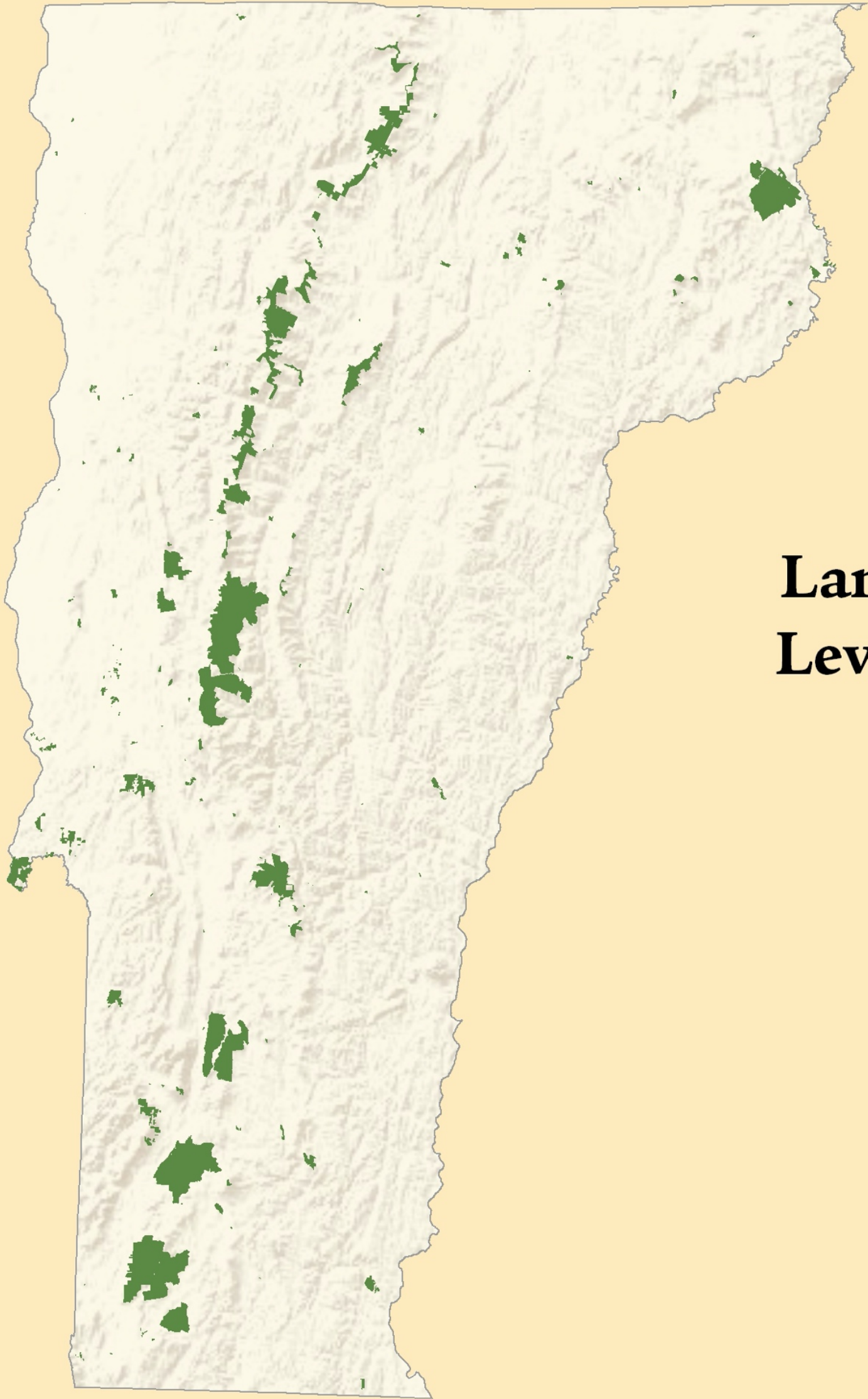
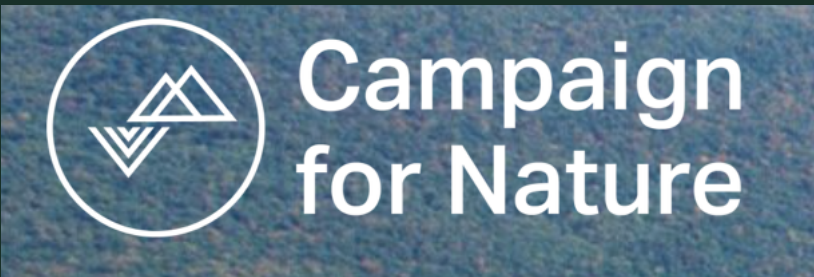
Reciprocity



How Much is Enough?



Wildlands & Woodlands
A Vision for the New England Landscape



**Lands with Wilderness
Level Protection (Gap1)
shown in Green**

Data courtesy of TNC VT
Secured Areas Database
Circa 2019

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest. The trees are mostly green, with some yellow and orange foliage visible, suggesting early autumn. A dark, winding river or stream flows through the forest, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the landscape.

What are the Barriers (and opportunities)?

Forest Legacy

Use Value (Current Use)

Vermont Conservation Design

Thank you

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Coyote in Sun | Sue Morse