



This map highlights undeveloped natural areas likely to provide core habitat blocks and habitat connections that facilitate species movements between blocks. Undeveloped habitat blocks provide relatively undisturbed habitat conditions required by many of Maine's species. Habitat connections provide necessary opportunities for wildlife to travel between preferred habitat types in search for food, water, and mates. Roads and development fragment habitat blocks and can be barriers to moving wildlife. By maintaining a network of interconnected blocks towns and land trusts can protect a wide variety of Maine's species—both rare and common—to help ensure rich species diversity long into the future. Maintaining a network of these large rural open spaces also protects

**Selected Town or Area of Interest** 

Development Buffer (pale transparency) 250-500 foot buffer around improved roads and developed areas based on

Remaining land outside of Development Buffers. Blocks greater than 100 acres are labeled with their estimated acreage.

### **Approximate Road Crossing Habitat Connections**

Represented habitat connections identified through computer modeling highlight locations where quality habitat is likely to occur on both sides of a given road between undeveloped habitat blocks greater than 100 acres and between higher value wetlands. These representations are approximate and have not been field verified.

### **Undeveloped Block Connectors**

Likely road crossing areas linking undeveloped habitat blocks greater than 100 acres. The threat of habitat fragmentation and animal mortality corresponds to traffic volume. Yellow lines represent habitat road crossings with daily traffic volumes

# Likely crossing locations for wetland dependent species moving between waterways and

Blue lines represent riparian road crossings with daily traffic volumes less than 2000 vehicles per day.

Purple lines represent riparian road crossings with daily traffic volumes greater than 2000 vehicles per day.

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# **Highway Bridge Connectors**

Highway bridges along I-95 and I-295 that span riparian habitat connecting adjacent but separated habitat blocks. These are locations where species are likely to take advantage of infrastructure to move between habitat blocks.

The State of Maine's conserved lands database includes lands in federal, state, and non-profit ownership. It does not include many privately owned conservation lands, especially those protected by local land trusts, or town owned conservation lands. For the most accurate and current information about land ownership, consult with the local

National parks, forests, and wildlife refuges. (Includes Canadian conserved lands.)

Wildlife Management Areas and other properties managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, state parks, and parcels managed by the Bureau of Parks &

Town parks, water district properties, community forests, etc.

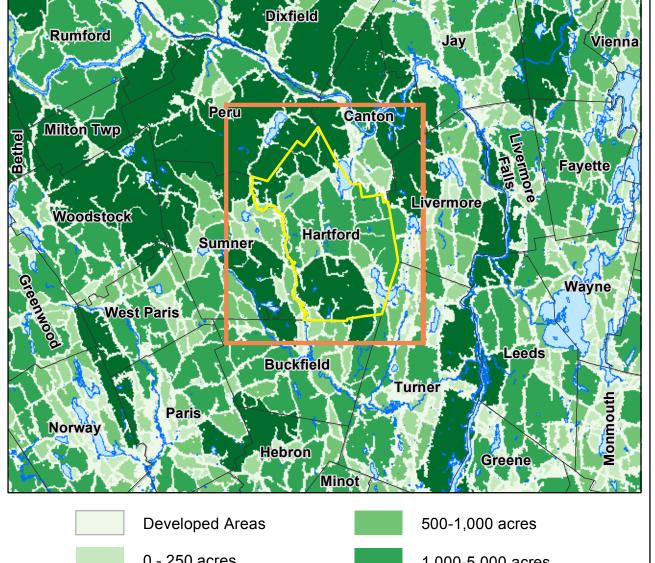
### Private Conservation

Properties owned and managed by private (usually non-profit) organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust; Trust for Public Land, and local

Voluntary legal agreements that allow landowners to realize economic benefit by permanently restricting the amount and type of future development and other uses on all or part of their property as they continue to own and use it.

Aerial imagery is often the best tool available to visualize existing patterns of development and resulting changes in the natural landscape. By depicting undeveloped habitat blocks, habitat connectors and conserved lands with aerial photos, the map user can more easily identify opportunities to expand the size and ecological effectiveness of local conservation

## **Regional Undeveloped Blocks**



0 - 250 acres

1,000-5,000 acres > 5,000 acres

1:325,000 1 inch equals 5 miles

## **Data Sources**

Maine Office of GIS: *metwp24* (2013)

Maine Office of GIS, Maine Department of Transportation): medotpub (2015)

UNDEVELOPED HABITAT BLOCKS, DEVELOPMENT BUFFER, CONNECTORS Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (2015)

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, Land Use Planning Commission, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

U.S. Department of Agriculture: *NAIP 2013* - state-wide 1-meter color orthoimagery

Maine Office of GIS - http://www.maine.gov/megis/catalog/ Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - http://www.maine.gov/dacf/ Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife - http://www.maine.gov/ifw/

To request digital data for a town or organization, visit our website. http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/the\_maps/gis\_data\_request.html





