Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

BioFinder™

Jens Hilke
Community Wildlife Program

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

The mission of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of our fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont

What we conserve

Natural communities

Fish

Habitat

Invertebrates

Wildlife

Plants

Who we serve

Wildlife watchers

Future generations

Anglers

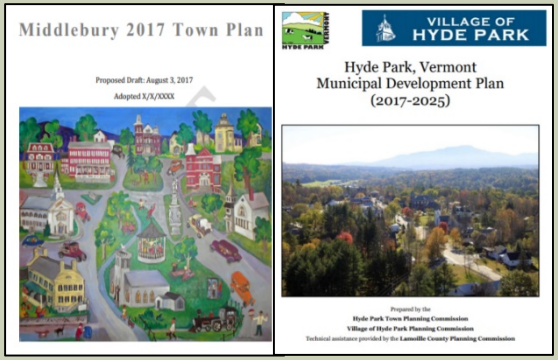
Hunters and trappers

Communities

Landowners

Community Wildlife Program

Presentations & Workshops

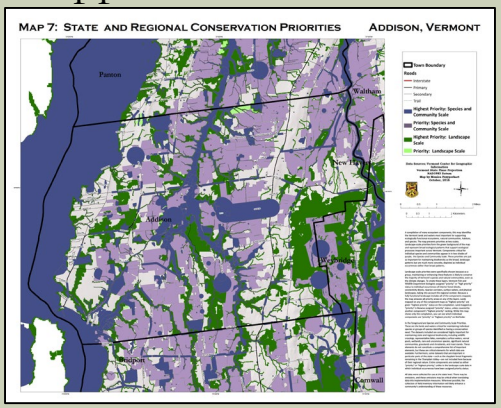


Support for Planning

Support for Conservation

Connecting Communities

Understanding ecological and community context

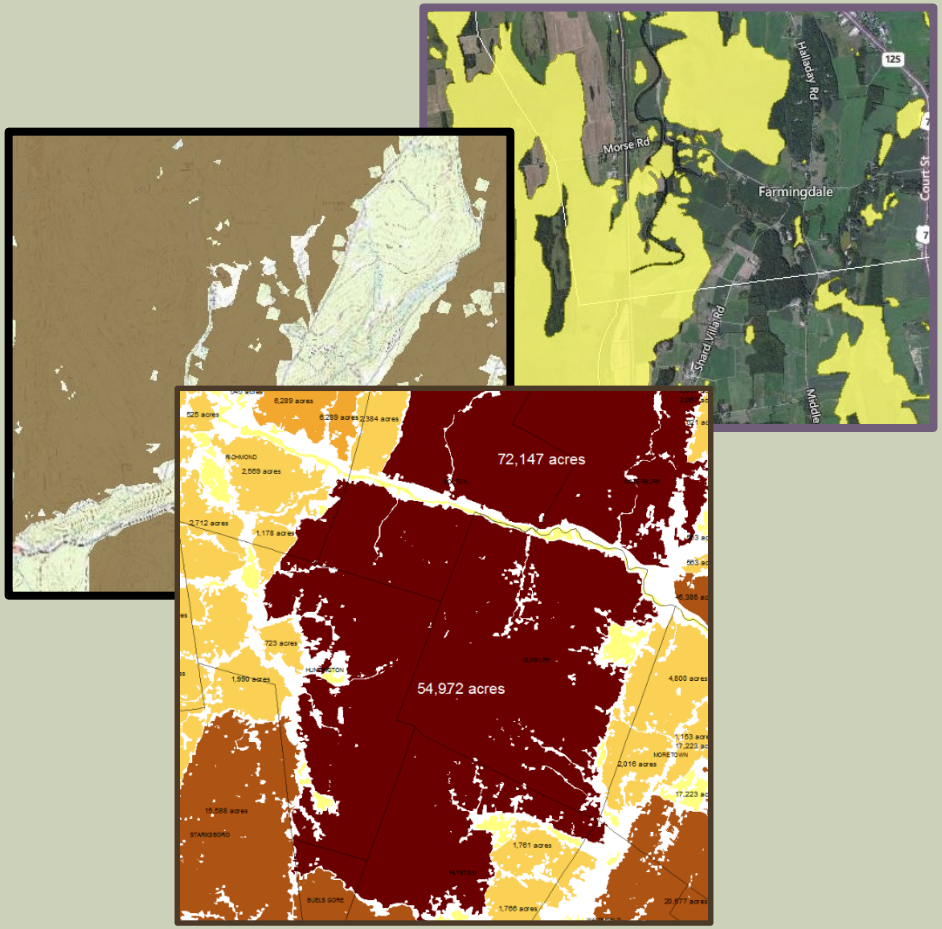


Mapping and Interpretation

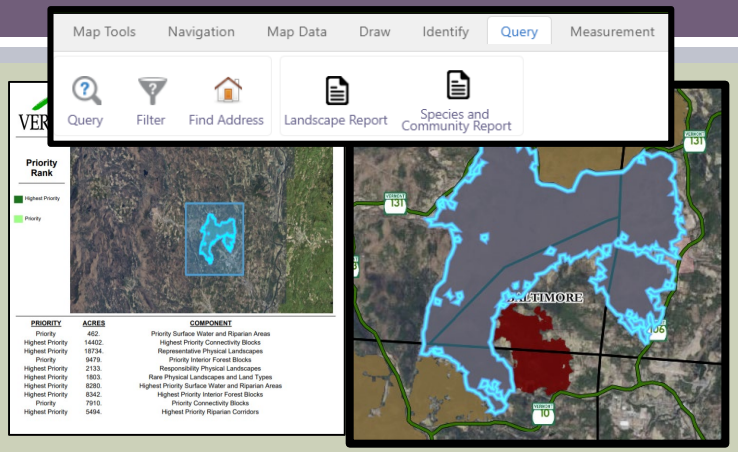
BioFinder IS…

BioFinder™

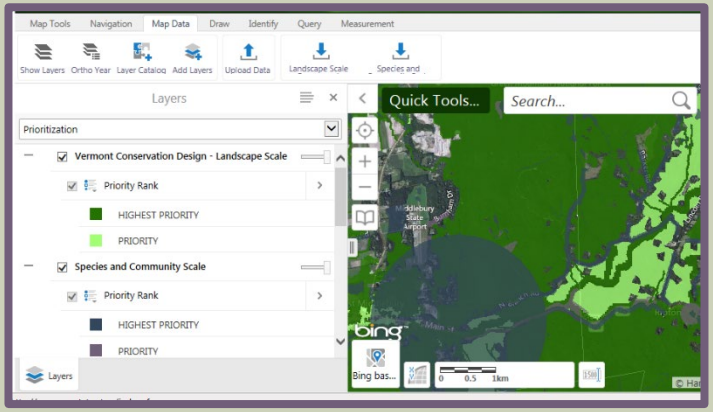
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources



A Set of Maps

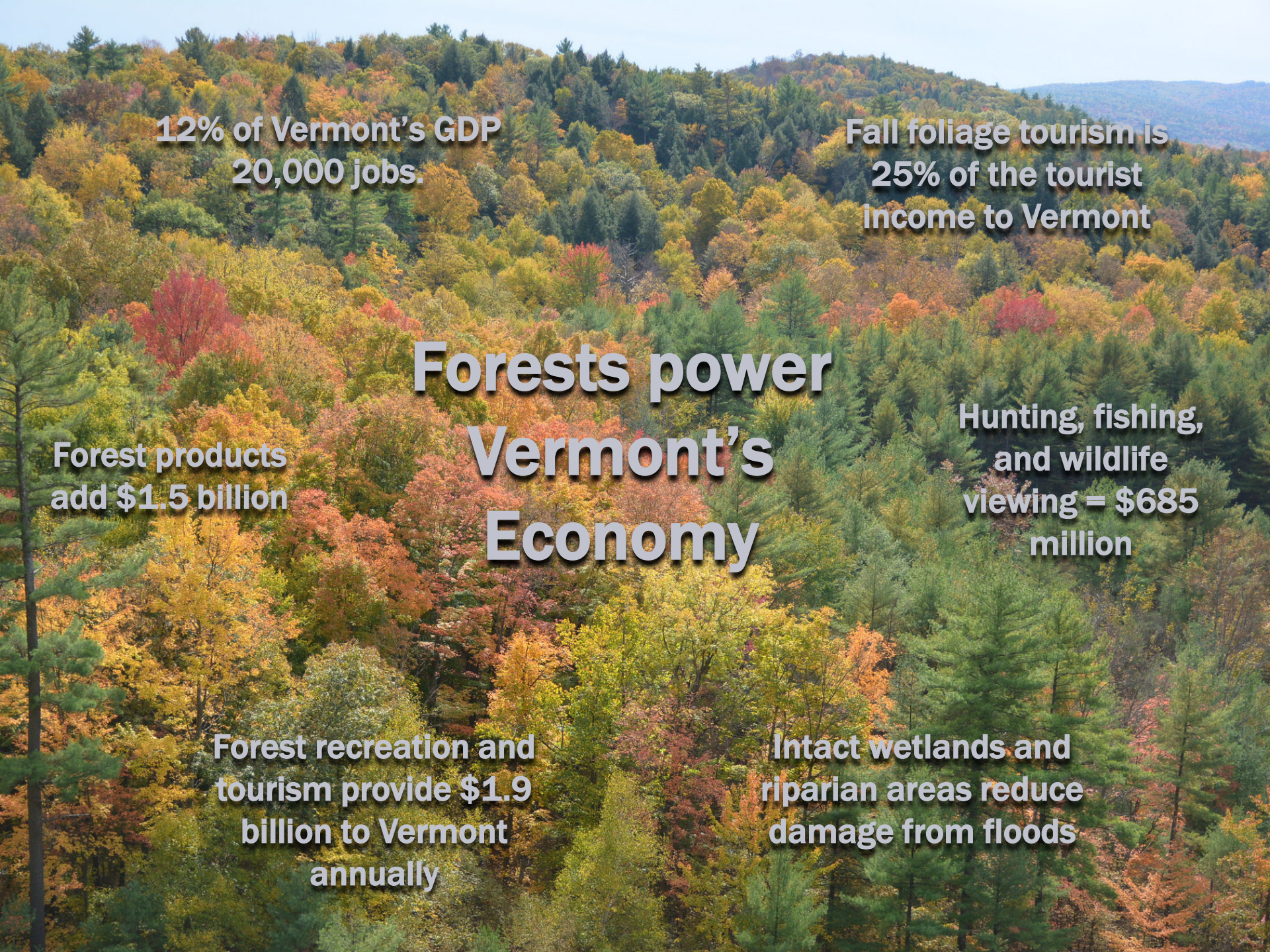


A Mapping Toolbox



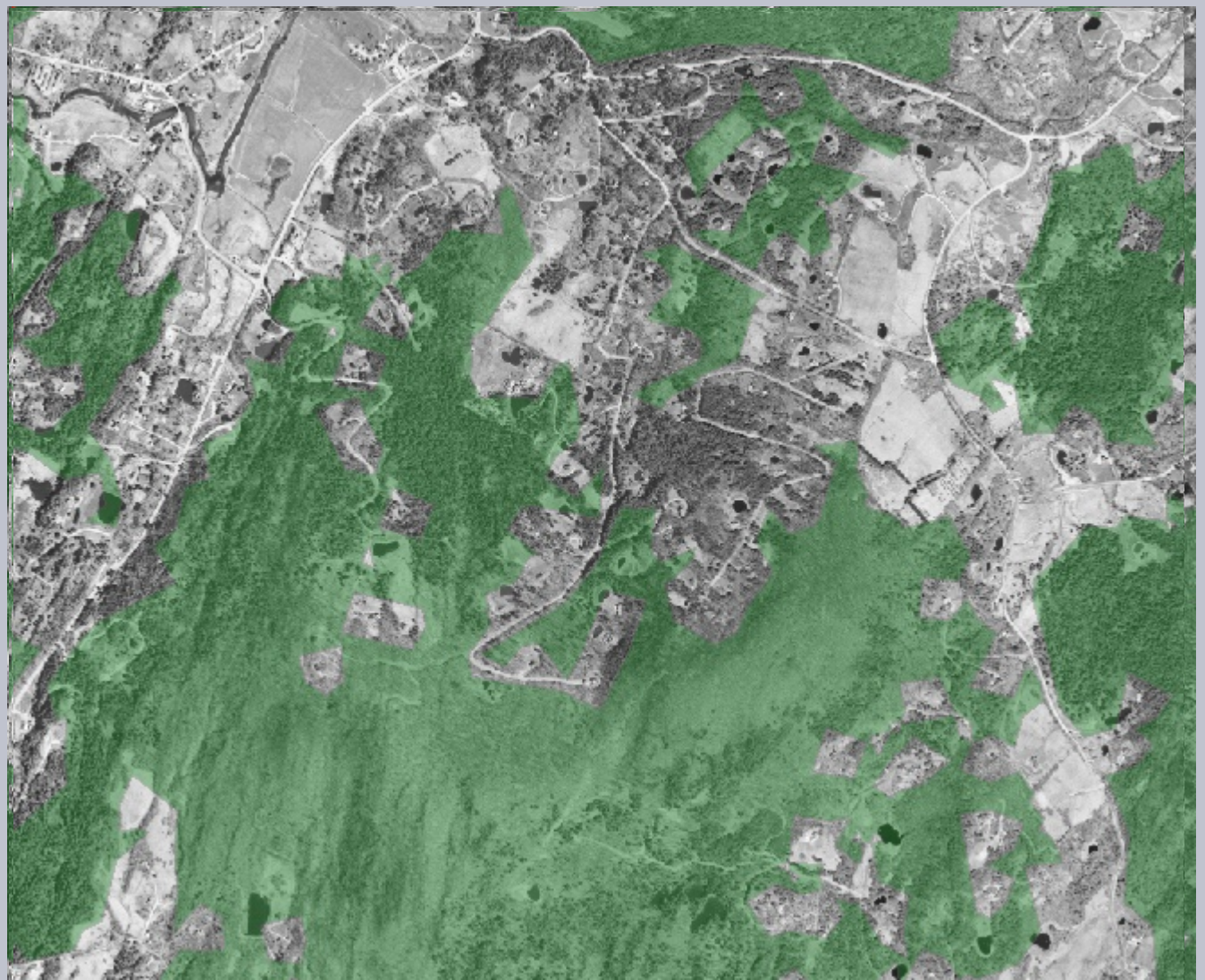
A Prioritization Tool

Sequester carbon and absorb harmful gases
Prevent erosion and reduce flooding
Shade (for buildings and rivers)
Vermonters value Undeveloped Land (Forests)
Clean air & water
Health: Forests prevent respiratory ailments
Places for recreation
Intact forests transmit fewer tick-borne illnesses
Scenery
Undeveloped landscapes and rural character
Timber production


12% of Vermont's GDP
20,000 jobs.
Fall foliage tourism is 25% of the tourist income to Vermont
Forests power Vermont's Economy
Forest products add $1.5 billion
Hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing = $685 million
Forest recreation and tourism provide $1.9 billion to Vermont annually
Intact wetlands and riparian areas reduce damage from floods

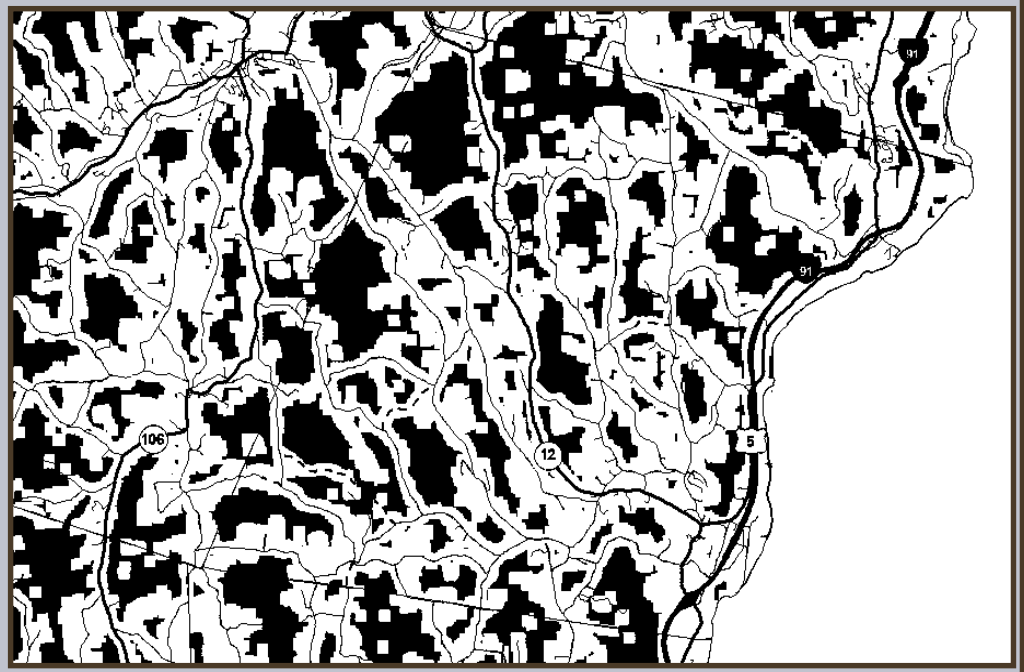
LOSING *FOREST*, IF NOT *TREES*

1974 – Forest cover

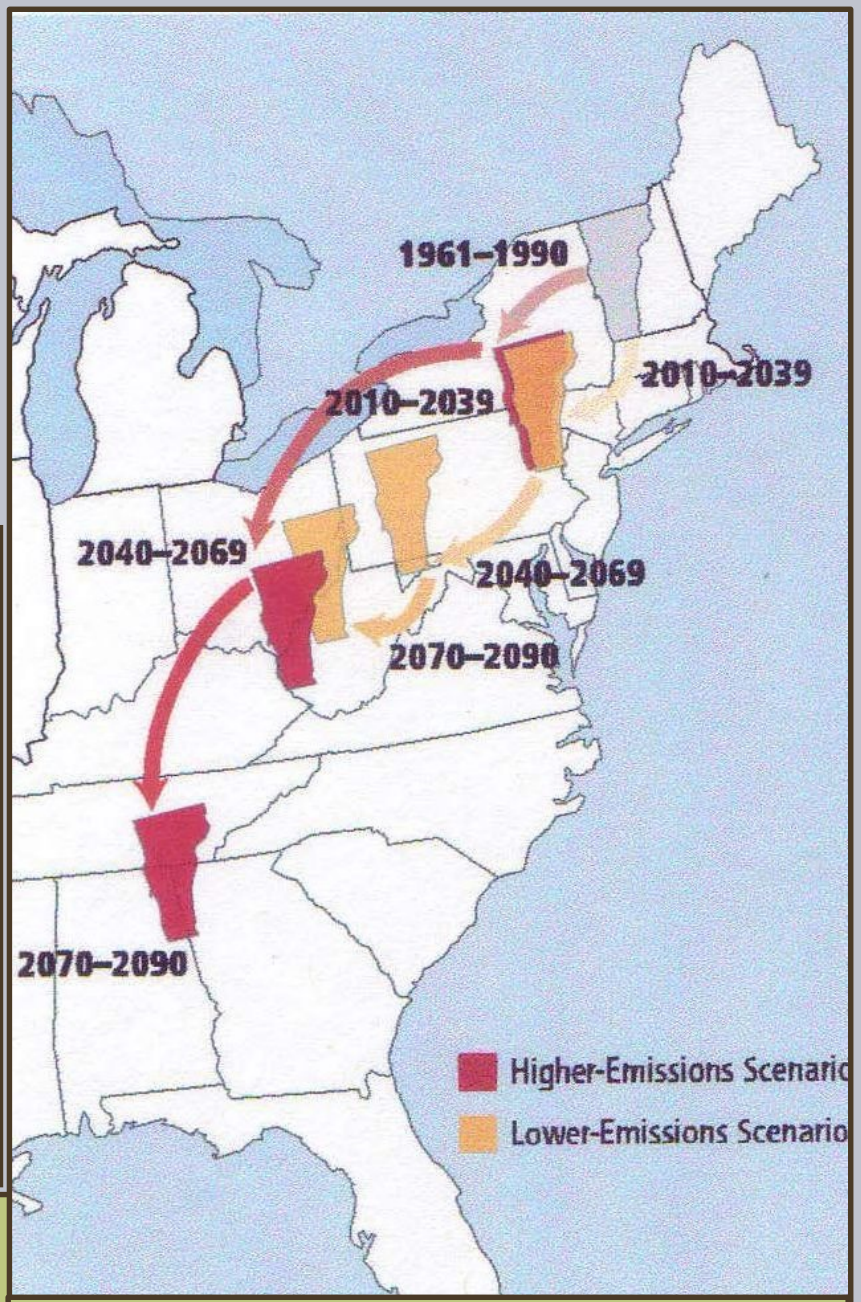


Fragmentation
+ A CHANGING CLIMATE

= a BIG challenge



Fragmented Forest Blocks in Hartland, VT



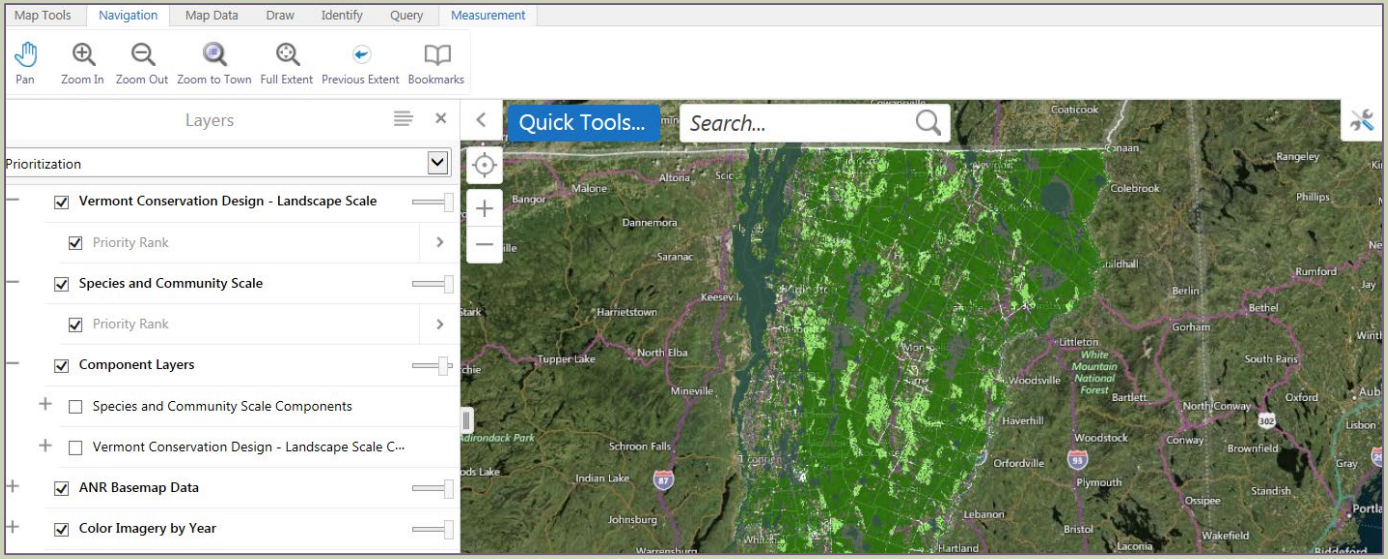
From Union of Concerned Scientists – Confronting Climate Change in the Northeast (NECIA 2007)

The Product: BioFinder

BioFinder™

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

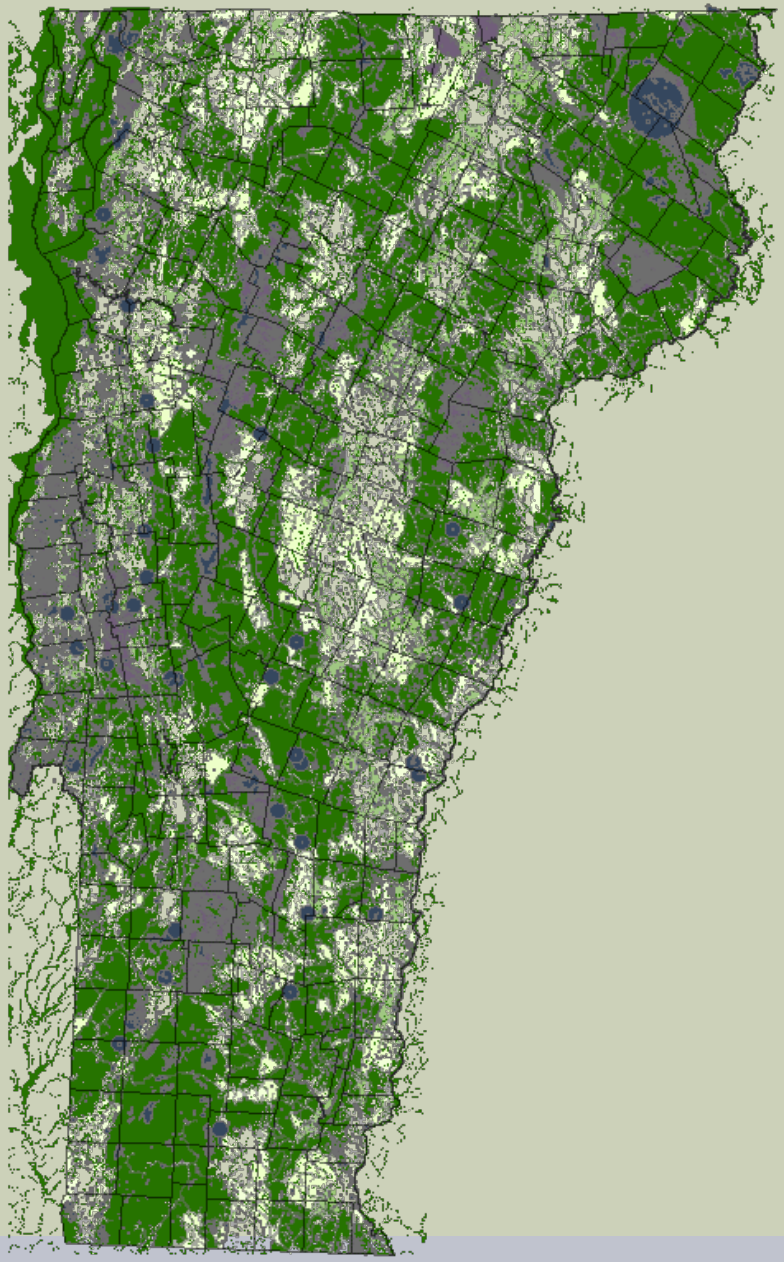
An online portal of Biodiversity information

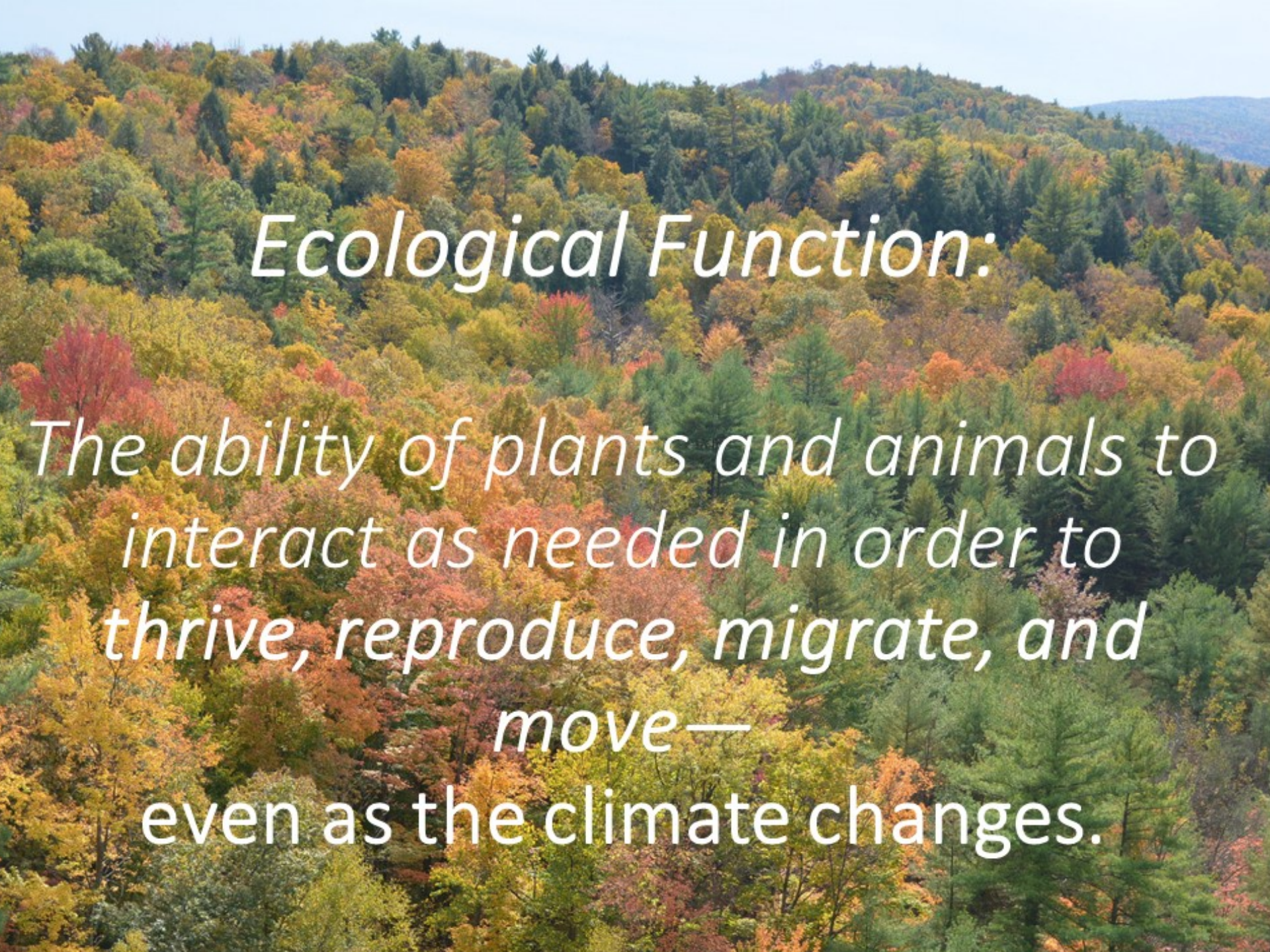


Accessible to everyone!

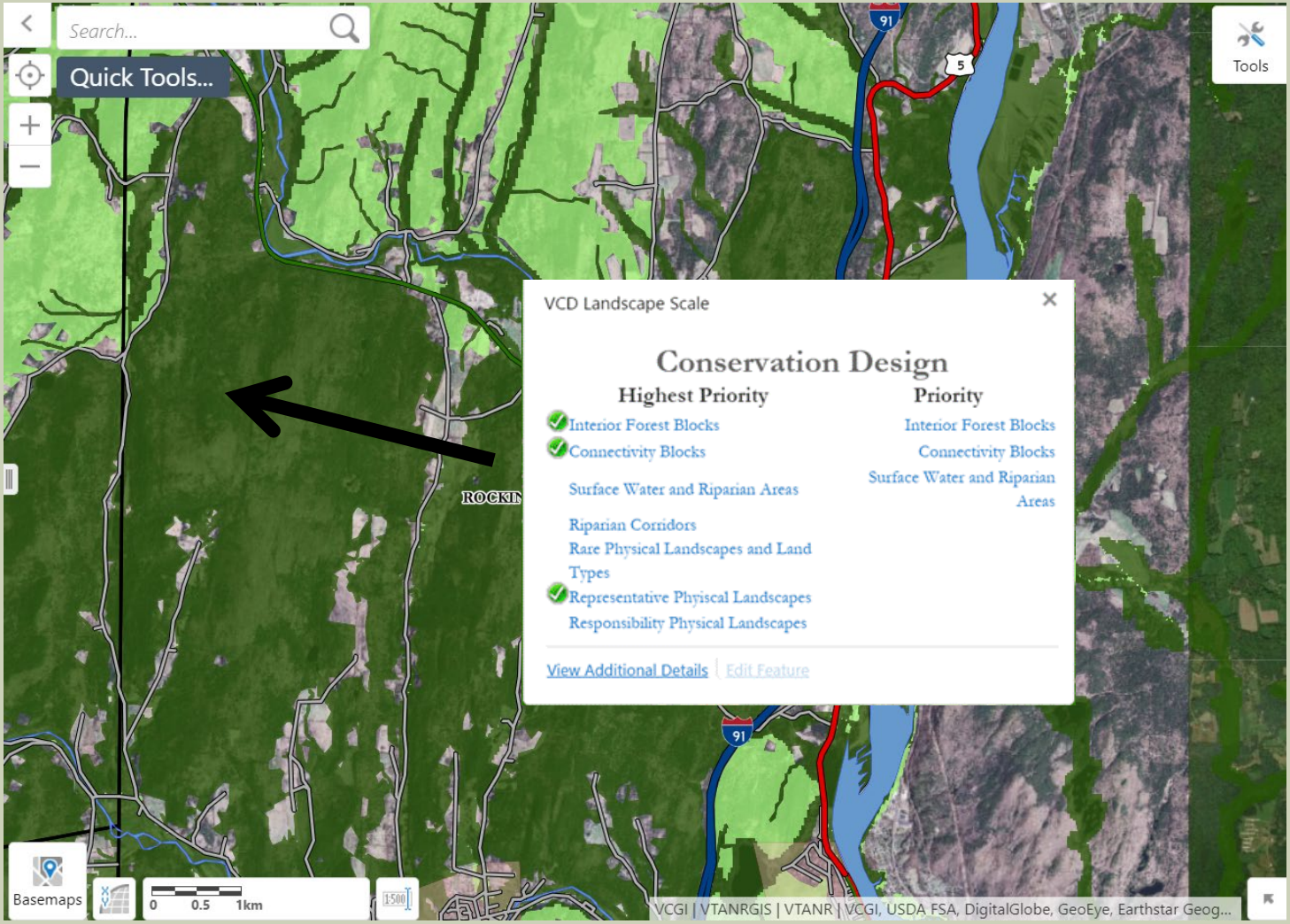
biofinder.vt.gov/

Vermont Conservation Design

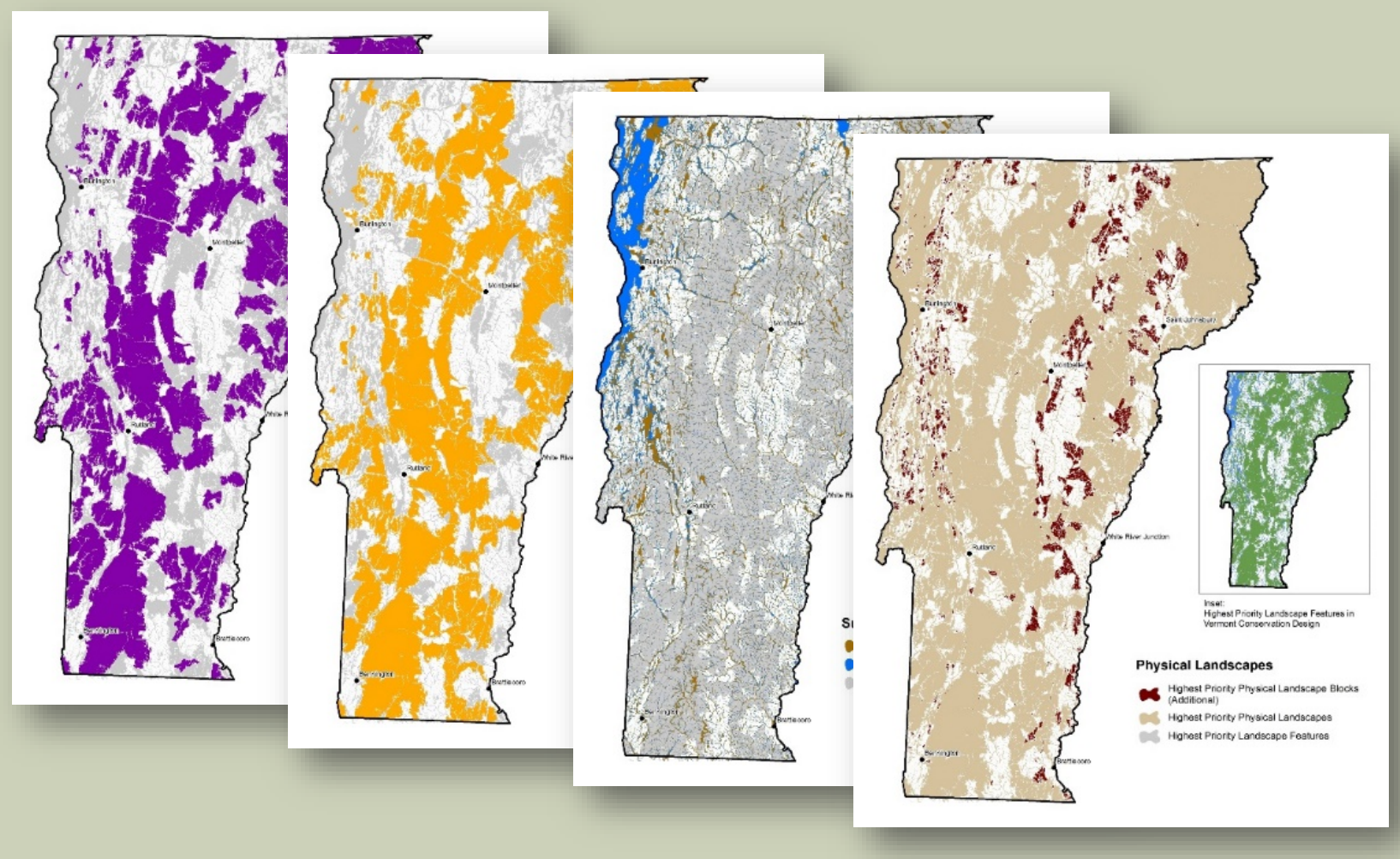



Ecological Function:
The ability of plants and animals to interact as needed in order to thrive, reproduce, migrate, and move—
even as the climate changes.

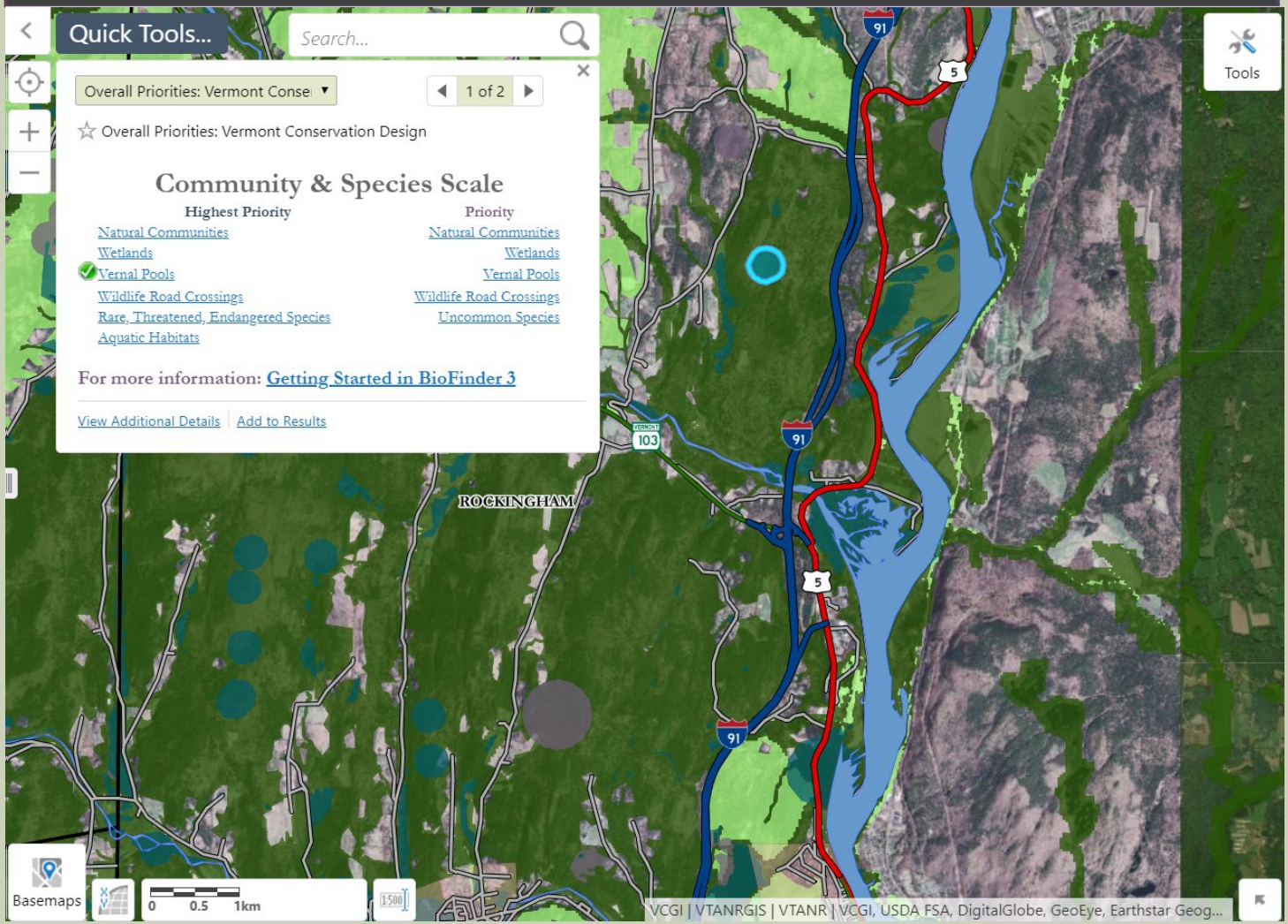
Putting YOUR place into a greater context.



Intact and Connected Forest Blocks
Surface Waters and Riparian Areas



Putting YOUR place into a greater context.



COMPONENTS

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Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

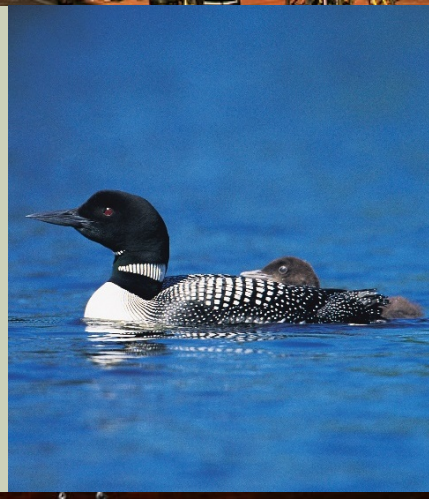
Community & Species Scale

Rare & uncommon species
Significant Natural Communities
Vernal pools
Wetlands
Mast stands
Grasslands & Shrublands
Wildlife Road Crossings
Representative Lakes
Exemplary Surface Waters

Healthy Forests,

Healthy Economy

Healthy Community



For More Information

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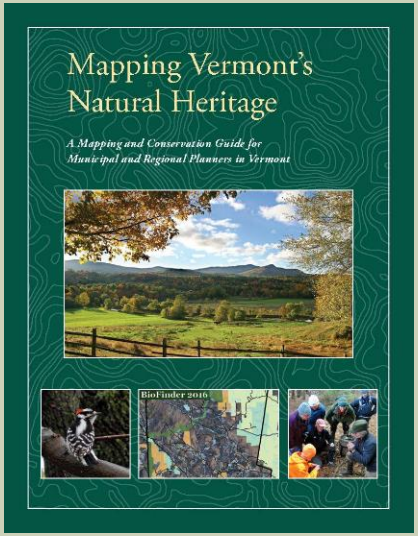
BioFinder™

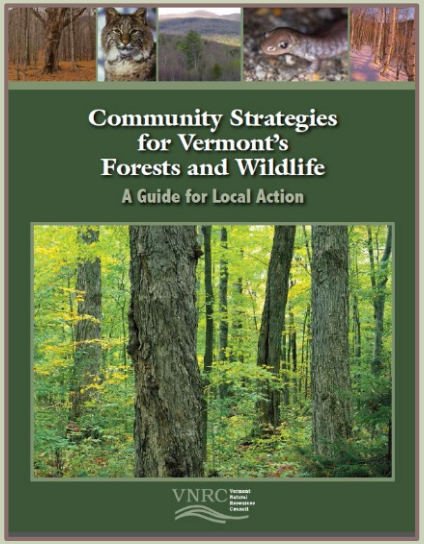
https://biofinder.Vermont.gov

Contact Us!

Jens.hilke@Vermont.gov



https://anr.vermont.gov/node/986



http://vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/guide/

Thank You