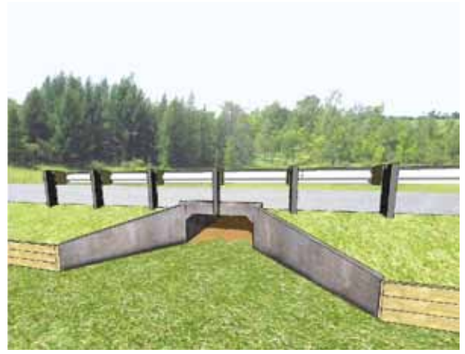
Join us now to ensure the sustainability of this wildlife population!



The tunnels explained: Wildlife, including salamanders and frogs, emerge from winter in the upland forest and descend to the marsh edge to breed. Two-hundred-foot wing-walls act like funnels to direct amphibians into five-foot-wide tunnels under the road. When the animals return to the uplands after breeding and egg-laying, wing-walls on the downhill side funnel them into the tunnels again.

The total cost for design and construction of two wildlife crossing tunnels is $380,000. Public sources have provided the majority of the funds to make this project a reality, but a local match is needed to begin construction in 2013.

The success of the Monkton Road Crossing Project is being made possible by:

Town of Monkton

Lewis Creek Association

Middlebury Area Land Trust

Federal Highway Administration

Vermont Agency of Transportation

Vermont Fish and Wildlife

Defenders of Wildlife

TransWild Alliance

CVPS Zetterstrom Award winner Sally Laughlin

The Davis Foundation

Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project

Please join us in supporting this project.

Tax-deductible gifts and pledges can be mailed to:

Lewis Creek Association
442 Lewis Creek Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

For more information, please contact:

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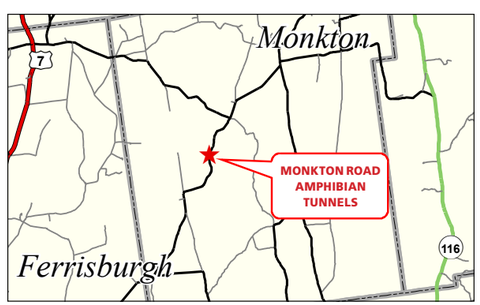
andreahinesburg@gmail.com

Carl Robinson
Middlebury Area Land Trust
802-388-1007
carl@maltvt.org



Habitat and Highways Campaign

The Vermont Reptile & Amphibian Atlas

VTrans Working to Get You There — Vermont Agency of Transportation

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE

TransWild Alliance

LEWIS CREEK ASSOCIATION

Middlebury Area Land Trust

Help build Vermont's first wildlife crossing tunnels!

" This is an exemplary enhancement project, and one that truly embodies the spirit of the Transportation Enhancement Program."
Patricia White, Director, Habitat and Highways Program, Defenders of Wildlife.

Create a safe connection for critical wildlife habitat now divided by an increasingly busy road.

Ensure the survival of one of the larger known populations of the blue-spotted salamander, a species of regional significance, as well as an exceptionally diverse group of other amphibian species.

Support grassroots conservation.

VERMONT'S FIRST WILDLIFE crossing tunnels in Monkton will allow thousands of salamanders and frogs to safely make their critical annual journey to and from their breeding pools.

As humans use the Monkton-Vergennes Road to commute between work, home, and recreation, wildlife needing access between upland habitat and vital breeding wetlands also travel in this corridor. The rare blue-spotted salamander is among the large and diverse group of amphibians that inhabit the rich natural area surrounding this increasingly busy road.

In 2005, the Monkton Wildllife Crossing Project began as concerned citizens realized that this population of amphibians was threatened by increasing traffic.

For the past five years, volunteers have mobilized in the evenings during peak movement times trying to slow traffic, alert drivers to the situation, and carry the animals across the road. It was soon apparent that a permanent and safer solution was needed. This volunteer effort gained support from the Monkton Select Board and secured funds to develop the conceptual design plans for design of wildlife crossing tunnels.

"This is one of the most important of the known amphibian crossings in the state. It is hard to imagine that the Monkton Road population can sustain this level of mortality for many more years."

James Andrews, Coordinator Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project

The Monkton Road Wildlife Crossing Project: Ensuring the survival of a critical amphibian migration corridor.

IN EARLY SPRING, AMPHIBIANS emerge from their winter habitat in the upland forests and make the necessary journey to the wetlands, where they breed. This ancient ritual ensures that the cycle of life continues for these marvelous creatures.

Although human development of the landscape and the construction of roads has disturbed the vital connections between pieces of their habitat mosaic, many populations have persevered. The creatures have continued to find their way across the roads, but the exponentially increasing traffic is now making the journey more and more treacherous, and biologists fear that some populations of amphibians may be lost forever.

This Champlain Valley wetland area is home to one of Vermont's largest and most diverse assemblages of amphibians, including one of the largest populations of blue-spotted salamanders in the state. Unfortunately these populations straddle the Monkton-Vergennes Road.

This extraordinary site is one of the few places where blue-spotted salamanders, Jefferson salamanders, blue-spotted/Jefferson hybrids, and four-toed salamanders can be found, along with many of the more common species of amphibians such as spotted salamanders spring peepers, and wood frogs. Sadly, this site is also one the region's most threatened, as thousands of amphibians are killed on the road each spring.

Despite the efforts of volunteers, who help animals across the road during peak evenings of movement, nearly half of the animals attempting the migration are run over by vehicles.

In the last 30 years, the number of vehicles using this road has risen from 300 per day to more than 1,600! Drivers are typically traveling at 40 miles per hour, too fast to even see a salamander on the road.

"The fact that for many of these species, large percentages of the population must cross the road to access breeding sites indicates a significant risk of population loss due to road kill."

Scott Jackson, Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Program, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, the Champlain Valley landscape has been shaped and reshaped by its streams, rivers, wetlands, and forests. This changing landscape has been home to a rich diversity of interdependent communities of animals and plants. To assure their continued survival in this landscape we must now make changes. The construction of crossing tunnels will allow these creatures to continue to move safely through the landscape.

The Lewis Creek Association and the Town of Monkton are leading a joint effort to build this much needed infrastructure.

Ecologists, engineers, and the Monkton road foreman have concluded that the only long-term solution to ensuring the sustainability of this extraordinary population of amphibians is to retro-fit the existing roadway with wildlife crossing tunnels. With support from the Vermont Agency of Transportation, this is the first wildlife related project in Northeastern United States to receive a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The project has received international attention for its innovative approach to reversing an ecological tragedy. News outlets from as far away as Sidney, Australia, were covering the story within hours of its announcement.