

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Volunteers Needed to Report Roadkill Sightings
WildPaths Project to document wildlife crossing roadways

Montgomery - As spring warms our region, animals are on the move and will often be seen both successfully and unsuccessfully crossing roadways. Cold Hollow to Canada is seeking volunteers for its *WildPaths Project* to help document where animals are choosing to cross roads in the Northern Green Mountains. Data gathered by volunteers will help direct local transportation efforts, maintain crucial connections between core wildlife habitats, and improve the safety on roadways for both people and wildlife.

Cold Hollow to Canada's *WildPaths Project* is a web-based database which allows volunteers to contribute random sightings of roadkill or successful crossings by providing a set of simple details. Photographs of animals may be contributed as well in order to identify species and geolocate each sighting. Our areas of interest are the towns of Richford, Montgomery, Enosburgh, Bakersfield, Fletcher, Belvidere and Waterville.

Volunteers may participate by submitting their roadside observations on the *WildPaths* webpage. Visit <http://bit.ly/CHCWildPaths> to share your sightings, upload photos or to sign up to Adopt-a-Roadway for a particular road. The *WildPaths Project* is also available on iNaturalist which can be used on an iPhone or Android smartphones. No training is necessary and people can start submitting sightings today!

Wildlife in our region serve as a natural indicator for the health of our forests. It's important to understand our resident wildlife populations, where they live, how they use different forest habitats, and how they travel across the landscape. When wildlife cross roadways they are at risk of getting killed by vehicles and these collisions can be a safety issue for people too.

Cold Hollow to Canada is non-profit regional conservation partnership focused on protecting forest integrity for people and wildlife. The data gathered will contribute to the state's knowledge about the impacts of roads on wildlife, and more importantly, to taking the first steps of developing a plan to reduce these impacts.

To learn more about the *WildPaths Project*, contact Bridget Butler at Cold Hollow to Canada at (802) 393-4147 or bridget@coldhollowtocanada.org.

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