Rewilding North America
Appendix A
Large Core Complexes in the South to North MegaLinkages
By Dave Foreman

The following areas stand out as the primary, large, wild-core complexes in the three South to North MegaLinkages. Although these complexes are not necessarily pure wilderness, they are mostly wilderness with minor roads and other developments causing minimal internal fragmentation. As research and consultation on the MegaLinkages advances, many changes will no doubt be made. But these big wild places are the anchors for the MegaLinkages in the United States, Northern Mexico, and Southern Canada. In the Pacific and Spine MegaLinkages, only core complexes totaling 500,000 acres or more are listed. In the Atlantic MegaLinkage, core complexes of 100,000 acres or more are listed. Some of the Atlantic complexes are tentative and require more study; many are more fragmented and less wild than the Pacific and Spine complexes. They are areas for restoration. However, I suggest them to show the possibilities for rewilding in the eastern United States.

Pacific

Sierra San Pedro del Martir (Baja California) 500,000 acres
Santa Rosa Mountains (CA) 600,000 acres
Joshua Tree National Park (CA) 700,000 acres
Sespe-San Rafael (CA) 700,000-1,000,000 acres
High Sierra (CA) 4,200,000 acres
Klamath-Siskiyou (CA, OR) 1,700,000-2,000,000 acres
Sky Lakes-Diamond Peak (OR) 500,000 acres
Three Sisters-Mt. Washington (OR) 500,000 acres
Mt. Adams-Mt. Rainier (WA) 800,000 acres
North Cascades (WA, BC) 4,000,000 acres

Spine Of The Continent Southeastern Spur

Mesa de las Guacamayas-Bavispe (CH, SN) 500,000 acres
Peloncillo-Animas (CH, SN, NM, AZ) 500,000-700,000 acres
Blue Range (AZ, NM) 900,000 acres
Gila-Aldo Leopold-Ladder (NM) 1,500,000-1,600,000 acres
San Andres-Armendaris-Bosque del Apache (NM) 1,100,000-1,200,000 acres
Vermejo-Latir (NM, CO) 800,000 acres
Sangre de Cristos (CO) 500,000 acres
South San Juans (CO, NM) 500,000 acres
San Juan Mts. (CO) 1,400,000-1,500,000 acres
Maroon Bells-West Elk-Holy Cross (CO) 1,300,000-1,400,000 acres
Flat Tops (CO) 600,000 acres
Rocky Mt. NP-Indian Peaks (CO) 600,000-700,000 acres

Spine Of The Continent Southwestern Spur

Galiuro-Mt. Graham (AZ) 700,000-800,000 acres
Mazatzal-Pine Mt. (AZ) 500,000 acres
Grand Canyon-Arizona Strip-Paria (AZ, UT) 3,000,000-3,500,000 acres
Escalante-Aquarius-Capitol Reef (UT) 4,000,000 acres
Canyonlands (UT) 1,700,000 acres
Desolation Canyon-Book Cliffs (UT) 1,200,000 acres
High Uintas (UT) 1,000,000 acres

Northern Spine Of The Continent

Wind Rivers-Gros Ventre (WY) 1,700,000-1,800,000 acres
Grayback-Commissary (WY) 600,000-700,000 acres
Greater Yellowstone (WY, MT, ID) 6,800,000-7,000,000 acres
Lemhi Range (ID) 600,000-700,000 acres
Lost River Range (ID) 500,000 acres
Central Idaho (ID, MT) 7,900,000-8,000,000 acres
Hells Canyon-Eagle Cap (OR, ID) 1,000,000-1,100,000 acres
Great Burn (ID, MT) 800,000-1,000,000 acres
Anaconda-Welcome (MT) 500,000-800,000 acres
Northern Continental Divide (MT, AB, BC) 3,600,000-3,800,000 acres

Atlantic
Not on map yet

Everglades-Big Cypress (FL) 2,700,000 acres
Avon Park Bombing Range (FL) 100,000 acres
Green Swamp (FL) 100,000 acres
Ocala NF South (FL) 230,000 acres
Ocala NF North (FL) 180,000 acres
Okefenokee-Pinhook-Osceola NF (GA, FL) 600,000 acres
Apalachicola NF East-St. Marks NWR (FL) 300,000 acres
Apalachicola NF Central-Tate’s Hell (FL) 400,000 acres
Eglin AFB East (FL) 100,000 acres
Eglin AFB West (FL) 100,000 acres

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Blackwater River North-Conecuh NF South (FL, AL) 200,000 acres
Cheaha (AL) 100,000 acres
Dugger-Choccolocco (AL) 100,000 acres
Cohutta-Big Frog (GA, TN) 100,000-200,000 acres
Chattahoochee Mts. (GA) 200,000-300,000 acres
Southern Nantahala Mts. (GA, NC) 100,000 acres
Northern Nantahala Mts. (NC) 100,000 acres
Blue Ridge Escarpment (GA, SC, NC) 200,000-300,000 acres
Unicoi Mts. (NC, TN) 300,000 acres
Great Smoky Mts. NP (TN, NC) 520,000 acres
Balsam Mts. (NC) 150,000 acres
Black Mts. (NC) 100,000 acres
Glenwood (VA) 100,000 acres
Cranberry (WV) 150,000 acres
Seneca-Laurel Fork (WV) 100,000 acres
Shenandoah NP (VA) 200,000 acres
Ramsey’s Draft (VA, WV) 100,000 acres
Fish Dam-Cranberry (PA) 125,000 acres
Hammersley (PA) 300,000-400,000 acres
Moshannon (PA) 150,000 acres
Catskill Mts. (NY) 100,000 acres
Oswegatchie-Ha-De-Ron-Dah-Independence (NY) 440,000 acres
Boreal-St. Regis (NY) 100,000 acres
High Peaks-Hoffman-Giant (NY) 385,000 acres
West Canada Lake (NY) 320,000 acres
Siamese Pond-Willcox Lake (NY) 225,000 acres
Silver Lake (NY) 107,000 acres
Glastenbury-Stratton (VT) 100,000 acres
Northern Green Mt. NF (VT) 120,000 acres
Green Mts. North (VT, QC) 100,000 acres
Nulhegan-Victory Bog (VT) 220,000 acres
Pemigewasset (NH) 150,000 acres
Sandwich Range-Waterville (NH) 100,000 acres
Presidential Range-Wild River-Caribou (NH, ME) 220,000 acres


For the Southern Appalachian areas, I have drawn from Irwin, Hugh, Susan Andrew, and Trent Bouts, Return the Great Forest: A Conservation Vision for the Southern Appalachian Region (Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, Asheville, NC, 2002). The rough acreage calculations are mine.

For areas in Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, and central New Hampshire, I used The Big Outside and more recent map research to identify core complexes and acreages. I also drew on work by the Pennsylvania Wildlands Project, Adirondack Council, and Northeast office of the Sierra Club.
Nash Stream (NH) 110,000 acres
Indian Stream-South Diamond-Magalloway (NH, ME) 1,300,000 acres
Umbagog-Richardson-Mooselookmeguntic Lakes (ME, NH) 220,000 acres
Mahoosuc (NH, ME) 110,000 acres
Sugarloaf-Mt. Abraham (ME) 170,000 acres
Moxie Pond (ME) 160,000 acres
Kennebec Headwaters-Misery Ridge (ME) 200,000 acres
Thoreau (ME) 4,900,000 acres (much is proposed as the Maine Woods National Park)\(^5\)