

# 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<sup>1</sup>

#### 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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<sup>1</sup> Foreman, Dave, and Howie Wolke, *The Big Outside* (Harmony Books/Crown, New York, 1992) is the reference for areas and acreages in the Pacific and Spine of the Continent MegaLinkages. Compare this list and discussion with that in Foreman, Dave, *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior* (Harmony Books/Crown, New York, 1991), pp. 188-189.

Blackwater River North-Conecuh NF South (FL, AL) 200,000 acres<sup>2</sup>  
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<sup>3</sup>  
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  
Glasterbury-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<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For the Florida areas, I've drawn from Hctor, Thomas S., Margaret H. Carr, and Paul D. Zwick, "Identifying a Linked Reserve System Using a Regional Landscape Approach: the Florida Ecological Network," *Conservation Biology*, Vol. 14, No. 4, August 2000, pp. 984-1000. The rough acreage calculations are mine.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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)<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The northern New Hampshire and Maine areas and acreages are taken from Jamie Sayen's "Proposed Northern Forest Headwaters Regional Wilderness Reserve System" map in *The Northern Forest Forum*, Mud Season 1998, pp. 16-17. A similar proposal is from Long, Robert, *Maine Wildlands Network Conservation Plan* (The Wildlands Project, Richmond, VT, 2002). The Wildlands Project and its partners are doing additional work for a comprehensive wildlands network proposal for northern New York and New England and adjacent areas in southeastern Canada.