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# field work

National Wildlife Federation Regions & Affiliates  
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BY DELANEY MCPHERSON



## NWF AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

### A VOICE IN VERMONT

**"A** lot of people say there's a physical change when you drive into Vermont from any direction," says Brian Shupe, executive director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC), a National Wildlife Federation affiliate. "It's a unique state that's worthy of protection, and that's what we've done."

For 60 years, VNRC has preserved habitat (above, at Dead Creek), convened fellow organizations in the state and worked toward climate

resilience—a strength especially valuable last year. In July, Vermont experienced devastating flooding that stranded people, blocked roadways and destroyed crops. In response, VNRC hosted two discussions on flood resilience and climate-smart policy in impacted areas with local leaders and community members.

In other efforts to protect Vermont's picturesque landscapes, VNRC has been working closely with lawmakers to modernize Act 250, the

state's more than 50-year-old land use law, including updating the renewable energy standard and calling for stricter regulations on forest fragmentation. In working on the latter, VNRC created an online tool to investigate and analyze forest fragmentation; see [vtforesttrends.vnrc.org](http://vtforesttrends.vnrc.org).

All of this work involves partnerships, from local conservation initiatives (inset, at an amphibian migration) to convening coalitions such as the Vermont Climate and Action Network, the Water Caucus and The Forest Partnership. "We bring folks together to protect what is special about this state," Shupe says. ■