

INTRODUCTION TO CONNECTIVITY #1

What is connectivity?

Connectivity refers to the ability of individuals to move freely through a landscape, seascape, or freshwater environment.

The main goal of connectivity is to facilitate **MOVEMENT**, through both **DISPERSAL** and **MIGRATION**, so that gene flow is maintained between local populations. By linking populations, there is a lower chance for extinction and greater support for species richness. More connectivity means fewer barriers to movement and less fragmentation.

Keeping habitat connected is a key conservation strategy to protect biodiversity.

DISPERSAL

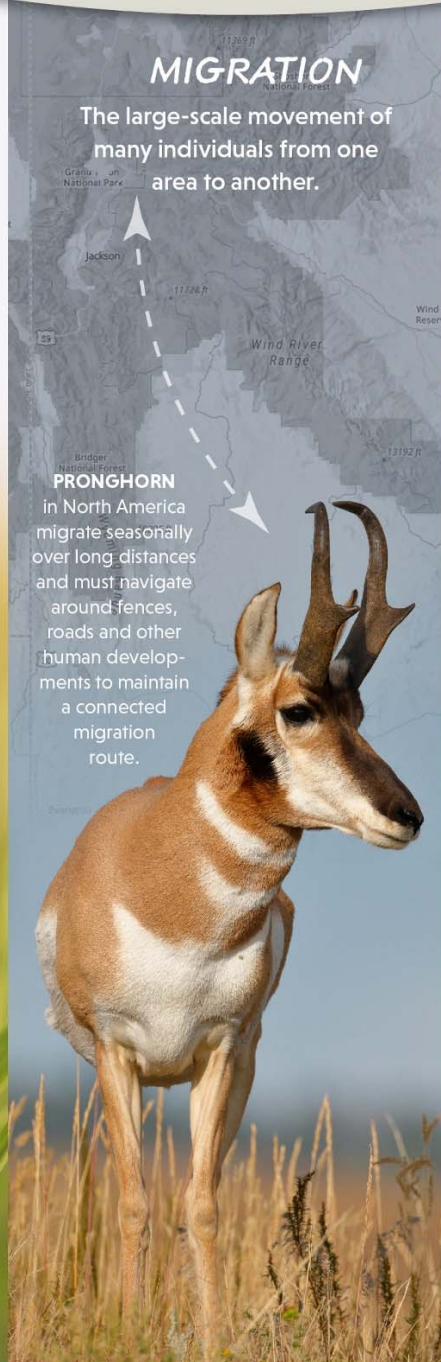
The movement of individuals from the area where they were born to a new area where they settle.



The **ST. FRANCIS' SATYR BUTTERFLY** lives in ephemeral wetlands and disperses along connected networks of creeks and streams.

MIGRATION

The large-scale movement of many individuals from one area to another.



PRONGHORN in North America migrate seasonally over long distances and must navigate around fences, roads and other human developments to maintain a connected migration route.

SEA OR LAND

Connectivity can be a characteristic of both terrestrial and aquatic environments.



Many ocean species, such as sharks and **SEA TURTLES**, travel between protected areas and need waterways that are connected and preserved.