# New England Forest and Rivers Fund


## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

- AstraZeneca
- Avangrid Foundation
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wood thrush

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Avangrid Foundation and AstraZeneca announced a 2021 round of funding for New England Forests and Rivers Fund projects. Ten new or continuing aquatic connectivity and forest management grants totaling $1.2 million were awarded. The 10 awards announced generated $3.1 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of $4.3 million.

The overall goal of the program is to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse bird populations, as well as freshwater and diadromous fish populations. Specifically, the program seeks to strengthen the health of forest systems by improving the management of public and private forestlands, provide incentives to strengthen habitat conservation on working forests, improve the quality of river and stream systems through targeted riparian and stream restoration, reduce barriers to fish passage and increase fish access to high quality habitat, and enhance biodiversity of forest and river systems to increase populations of species representative of system health.

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of $6.1 billion.

Learn more at **www.nfwf.org**


**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**
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**Building Capacity for Sustainable Young Forest Habitat Management in Maine (II)**
Grantee: Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
Grant Amount: ..... $84,156
Matching Funds: ..... $192,584
Total Project Amount: ..... $276,740
Implement on-the-ground habitat restoration to increase New England cottontail populations in southern Maine, where populations have responded to habitat improvements, but where an urgent need remains to expand and connect habitats. Project will conserve and manage an additional 300 acres of habitat using a new Tool for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) program approach to develop robust partnerships with landowners in the region.

**Surveying Changes in Forest Bird Populations After Thirty Years of Commercial Forest Management (ME)**
Grantee: Spatial Informatics Group Natural Assets Laboratory
Grant Amount: ..... $125,000
Matching Funds: ..... $190,000
Total Project Amount: ..... $315,000
Evaluate how the ten-million-acre commercial forestland of north-central Maine is supporting national-scale bird conservation today and recommend landscape-level changes in management that would better support declining species. Project will revisit a comprehensive survey of birds in this managed forest landscape from thirty years ago, recreate the study in present time, and demonstrate how commercial forestry can advance national-scale bird conservation goals.

**Restore Aquatic Connectivity for Eastern Brook Trout on 27 Miles of the Manhan River (MA)**
Grantee: Massachusetts Audubon Society
Grant Amount: ..... $80,627
Matching Funds: ..... $87,966
Total Project Amount: ..... $168,593
Restore critical ecological functions and protect community water infrastructure vulnerable to flooding through the removal of the Lyman Pond Dam on the Manhan River, a tributary to the Connecticut River in south central Massachusetts. Project will eliminate a total barrier to upstream movement of native brook trout and anadromous fish species, protect a public source of drinking water, and restore fish passage to 27 miles of previously inaccessible high quality habitat.

**Install a Fishway to Restore Passage for River Herring at Baskahegan Lake and Crooked Brook (ME)**
Grantee: Atlantic Salmon Federation (U.S.)
Grant Amount: ..... $200,000
Matching Funds: ..... $1,247,000
Total Project Amount: ..... $1,447,000
Construct a fishway at the Crooked Brook Dam in the town of Danforth, Maine that will connect the Crooked Brook and Baskahegan Lake in the upper Penobscot River. Project will reconnect 8,960 pond and lake acres and 137 stream miles to the Penobscot with the potential to add 2 million adult river herring to the system and benefit other species including Atlantic salmon, American eel and sea lamprey.

Brook trout

**Restoring Access to Critical Cold Water Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout on the Winooski River (VT)**
Grantee: Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
Grant Amount: ..... $50,000
Matching Funds: ..... $16,500
Total Project Amount: ..... $66,500
Remove a barrier to fish passage on the Jail Branch of the Winooski River in Vermont, restoring access to critical cold water refuge habitat for eastern brook trout. Project will remove one barrier and reconnect more than 14 miles of upstream habitat, while also restoring instream habitat and improving floodplain function and water quality.

**Restore Critical Habitat in the Cupsuptic River for Eastern Brook Trout by Installing Bridges (ME)**
Grantee: Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
Grant Amount: ..... $60,000
Matching Funds: ..... $85,389
Total Project Amount: ..... $145,389
Reconnect over four miles of headwater streams critical to spawning and cold water refugia for native eastern brook trout within the Cupsuptic River Watershed, Maine. Project will remove two undersized culverts at road stream crossings and install bridges that allow for natural stream processes, and upstream and downstream passage of aquatic organisms.

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Wood turtle

**Restore Fish Passage for Native Brook Trout and Improve Stream Habitat in the Warner River (NH)**
Grantee: Merrimack River Watershed Council
Grant Amount: ..... $191,198
Matching Funds: ..... $732,006
Total Project Amount: ..... $923,204
Replace five undersized culverts, restore riparian forest buffers and improve instream conditions in the Warner River Watershed in southern New Hampshire. Project will develop a cost-effective and replicable model of Resilient Riparian Forest Management by engaging landowners and foresters in climate-adaptive riparian buffer restoration at precision-targeted sites, while holistically improving habitat for wild brook trout and dramatically reducing flood risk at high priority flood hazard sites.

**Implement and Enhance Streamside Forests to Improve Riparian Habitats in Priority Watersheds (VT)**
Grantee: State of Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Council
Grant Amount: ..... $200,000
Matching Funds: ..... $200,000
Total Project Amount: ..... $400,000
Restore and manage at least 25 acres of forested riparian buffers in targeted high priority areas for eastern brook trout to improve and sustain habitat quality over time. Project will protect and restore healthy forests and rivers that provide important habitat for freshwater mussels and fish, native turtles and birds, and pollinators.

**Restoring Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout in Thirty-one Priority Watersheds (VT)**
Grantee: Connecticut River Watershed Council
Grant Amount: ..... $84,206
Matching Funds: ..... $212,134
Total Project Amount: ..... $296,340
Increase in-stream habitat, enhance habitat complexity, restore river function, improve water quality, and enhance the long-term persistence of native eastern brook trout in 31 priority sub-watersheds of the Connecticut River in Vermont. Project will install large wood along 10 miles of wild brook trout streams, and work with 12 private forest landowners.

**Restore Eastern Brook Trout Habitat in the Lakes Region through Strategic Wood Additions (NH)**
Grantee: Belknap County Conservation District
Grant Amount: ..... $159,690
Matching Funds: ..... $159,889
Total Project Amount: ..... $319,579
Restore seven native eastern brook trout streams and develop forest stewardship plans in in Alton, Belmont, and Gilmanton, New Hampshire. Project will install large in-stream wood to improve stream function and habitat quality, and develop three Town Forest Stewardship Plans that focus on sustainable forest management, protection of aquatic habitat and forest habitat for target bird species dependent on mature forest.