



NFWF

EVERSOURCE

Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife

Awards List

On July 30, 2015, NFWF awarded seven grants totaling more than \$662,000 to restore New Hampshire's forest and freshwater habitat. The grants were funded through *Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife*, a partnership between Eversource and NFWF. A description of each funded project is provided below.

- 1) ***American Rivers - Assessing Fish Barrier Priority Modifications in the Connecticut River Tributaries (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont) \$50,324***
Identify priority removals of barriers to fish passage and provide engineering designs for selected projects in the Connecticut River tributaries of New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts. Project will identify landowners, reach out to them, and complete preliminary engineering studies to advance up to six barrier removals that will, when implemented, restore access and connectivity to more than 60 miles of stream with critical upstream habitat for native Eastern Brook Trout, River Herring, and Atlantic salmon. Partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council.
- 2) ***Connecticut River Watershed Council - Getting Conservation on the Ground - Outreach and Assistance For Limited Resource Landowners in the Connecticut River Watershed (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont) \$64,540***
Provide project design, technical assistance, and financial assistance to at least six private landowners with working lands in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont who are unable to meet cost share requirements for improving riparian and in-stream habitats on their land. Project will target priority Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture watersheds within the Connecticut River watershed, especially those watersheds with high potential for sediment and nutrient loading reductions, by implementing habitat best management practices to restore twelve miles of riparian and in-stream habitat, which also will benefit Long Island Sound priorities and the goals of the Long Island Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Plan.
- 3) ***Connecticut River Watershed Council - Restoring Connectivity Through Fish Barrier Modifications on Oliverian Brook (New Hampshire) \$65,000***
Replace an undersized, perched culvert on Oliverian Brook in Haverhill, New Hampshire by providing design, engineering, and permitting assistance. Project will open and connect 22 miles of stream and riparian buffer habitat to benefit Eastern Brook Trout and other aquatic species in two subwatersheds identified as high priority by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Partners include the Town of Haverhill.

- 4) ***Merrimack River Watershed Council - Expanding Riparian Forest Buffers to Improve Water Quality Using a Precision Stormwater Approach (Massachusetts, New Hampshire) \$103,971***
Restore riparian forest buffers in four targeted New Hampshire and Massachusetts sub-watersheds of the Merrimack River, selected by metrics based on impervious surface area, nutrient pollution level, and brook trout habitat, to improve water quality and habitat for Eastern Brook Trout and other aquatic species. Project will provide training and technical assistance to landowners and municipalities in Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Rockingham counties in New Hampshire and Essex county in Massachusetts, resulting in the planting of 2,400 mixed native seedlings on fourteen demonstration sites by sixteen trained volunteers.
- 5) ***University of New Hampshire - The Stewardship Network: New England - Mobilizing Volunteers for Forest and Riparian Habitat Restoration in New Hampshire (New Hampshire) \$100,000***
Increase the capacity of local conservation organizations, public agencies, and local communities to work with volunteers on conservation of New Hampshire's lands and waters. Project will provide technical assistance and training in volunteer management on at least 15 habitat restoration projects and three citizen science projects in three focus areas, including habitat restoration for forest and riparian species in greatest need of conservation according to New Hampshire's State Wildlife Action Plan, innovative approaches for invasive plant removal to restore healthy forests and riparian areas, and citizen science programs focused on wildlife and water quality.
- 6) ***Vermont Center for Ecostudies - Mapping Abundance and Estimating Population Size of Bicknell's Thrush (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont) \$78,588***
Produce two spatially explicit estimates of abundance and population size of Bicknell's Thrush and other montane forest birds in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont to predict how abundance, population size, and distribution may change in response to forest succession and disturbance events. Project will fill critical information gaps identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group, and the results will help identify priority habitat areas for future conservation by recruiting 100 volunteers and monitoring 650 stream and forest sites.
- 7) ***Wildlife Management Institute - Restoring Young Forests To Benefit New England Cottontail and American Woodcock (New Hampshire) \$200,000***
Promote and implement young forest management activities on private land in northern and southern New Hampshire to benefit a suite of species, including New England Cottontail, Golden-Winged Warbler and American Woodcock. Technical assistance and outreach will be focused on private lands owned by Wagner Woodlands, resulting in five new management plans and improved management practices that will increase habitat by 140 acres and assess 3,500 acres for improved management of American Woodcock, Golden-Winged Warbler, and New England Cottontail.

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