



# New England Forest and Rivers Fund

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## PARTNERS

- American Forest Foundation
- Eversource
- Avangrid Foundation
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Forest Service

## 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Black-throated blue warbler

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-U.S. Forest Service, American Forest Foundation, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Services, Avangrid Foundation and Eversource announced a 2020 round of funding for New England Forests and River Fund projects. Thirteen new or continuing aquatic connectivity and forest management grants totaling \$1.8 million were awarded. The 13 awards announced generated \$2.9 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$4.7 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 restoration, reduce barriers to fish passage and increase populations of species representative of system health.

This slate was selected through a competitive process, using the New England Forests and Rivers Fund 2020 RFP. Grants were evaluated on established criteria, including:

- Program goals and priorities
- Technical merit and work plan
- Conservation plan and context
- Monitoring
- Long-term sustainability
- Budget
- Cost-effectiveness

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### Reconnecting Maine's Rivers Using Field Experience to Build Stream Restoration Capacity

Grantee: Maine Audubon

Grant Amount: .....\$199,987  
 Matching Funds: .....\$815,000  
 Total Project: .....\$1,014,987

Provide hands-on training to surveyors, civil engineers, municipal and state road professionals and engineering students that results in replacement road-stream crossings that reconnect previously blocked stream segments. Project will replace 24 poorly functioning culverts identified on priority public lands and roads, restore 2 miles of riparian forest and restore access to 36 miles of stream for native brook trout and Atlantic salmon and reduce flood hazard risk in Maine municipalities.

### Constructing a Fishway at China Lake Outlet to Restore Access to River Herring Spawning Habitat (ME)

Grantee: Maine Rivers

Grant Amount: .....\$50,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$50,000  
 Total Project: .....\$100,000

Restore fish passage at Outlet Stream, a tributary to the Sebasticook River, that will open access to historic spawning habitat for river herring. Project will construct a fish passage that improves access to almost 4,000 acres of lake spawning habitat that is expected to produce an annual run of 800,000 to 950,000 river herring to China Lake when the final barrier is removed, as well as reopening a historic fishery that will provide economic benefits for the local community.

### Restoring Instream Habitat and Engaging Private Landowners to Improve Fish Passage (MA,NY,VT)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: .....\$133,842  
 Matching Funds: .....\$246,586  
 Total Project: .....\$380,428

Restore instream and riparian forest habitat in priority locations based on previous outreach and training to private landowners, municipalities, and forestry professionals. Project will add large woody material to five miles of stream, restore five miles of adjacent riparian forest to create habitat for native brook and complete 90 percent designs for three aquatic barriers to be removed in the future.



Brook trout



Wood thrush

### Removing Barriers to Fish Passage in Three Priority Headwater Streams to Benefit Brook Trout (NH)

Grantee: Androscoggin River Watershed Council

Grant Amount: .....\$135,020  
 Matching Funds: .....\$365,020  
 Total Project: .....\$500,040

Restore aquatic organism passage in the Stearns Brook sub-watershed of northeast New Hampshire by removal of barriers to passage for eastern brook trout in three high quality headwater streams, Clay Brook, the South Branch of Stearns Brook and Alder Brook. Project will replace three undersized culverts with bridges, reconnecting 6 miles of critical upstream cold water habitat in an area which is targeted as a priority by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

### Finalizing Designs to Remove a Barrier to Brook Trout at Wheelwright Pond on the Ware River (MA)

Grantee: East Quabbin Land Trust

Grant Amount: .....\$89,995  
 Matching Funds: .....\$90,000  
 Total Project: .....\$179,995

Complete final design and permitting for the removal of a significant barrier to aquatic organism passage at Wheelwright Pond on the Ware River in eastern Massachusetts. Project will set the stage for implementing the removal of the barrier and eventually reconnect 41 miles of upstream habitat, including 34 miles of high-quality eastern brook trout habitat, in a state-designated coldwater fishery resource.



Wood turtle

#### **Restoring Riparian Forests, Instream Habitat and Wetlands in the Champlain and Memphremagog Basins (VT)**

Grantee: Vermont Land Trust

Grant Amount: .....\$137,650

Matching Funds: .....\$137,765

Total Project: .....\$275,325

Design and implement a suite of forest, stream and agricultural practices in the heavily agricultural basins of Vermont's two largest lakes, Champlain and Memphremagog, as part of the Headwaters to Lakeshore Initiative. Project will restore 10 miles of riparian forest with a 50 foot buffer, restore a mile of instream habitat and 100 acres of wetland to improve ecological function and reduce phosphorous loads on farms with conservation easements.

#### **Assessing Brook Trout Populations and Aquatic Barrier Status in the Big River Management Area (RI)**

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: .....\$89,962

Matching Funds: .....\$90,000

Total Project: .....\$179,962

Conduct an inventory of native brook trout populations, a water temperature study and a fisheries barrier assessment within the Big River Management Area located in central Rhode Island. Project will produce a report that will summarize the status of brook trout populations, distribution of water temperatures and prioritize future implementation efforts to enhance brook trout habitat and protect water quality within the 22 miles of mapped streams.

#### **Enhancing Instream Habitat for Brook Trout and Salmon in Narraguagus River and Tributaries (ME)**

Grantee: Project SHARE

Grant Amount: .....\$200,000

Matching Funds: .....\$248,500

Total Project: .....\$448,500

Implement instream habitat restoration projects in Downeast Maine, specifically the Narraguagus River, Northern Stream (a tributary to the East Machias River), and in Third Lake Stream (a section of the Machias River between Second and Third Lake Machias). Project will restore 4 miles of instream habitat to benefit Atlantic salmon and native brook trout using large woody material and engage 200 community members.

#### **Developing a Watershed Management Plan for the Upper Saco River to Improve Water Quality (NH)**

Grantee: Greater Lovell Land Trust

Grant Amount: .....\$115,207

Matching Funds: .....\$167,630

Total Project: .....\$282,837

Develop a watershed-based management plan for Kearsarge Brook in the Saco River that will outline strategies to protect source water and address water quality impairment identified by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Project will result in a community-supported and data-driven plan that meets the criteria for Natural Resource Conservation Service National Water Quality Initiative standards and the Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 program requirements.

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Golden-winged warbler

#### **Developing a Municipal Culvert Cooperative to Improve Fish Passage in the Housatonic River (CT, MA)**

Grantee: Housatonic Valley Association

Grant Amount: .....\$151,510  
 Matching Funds: .....\$168,000  
 Total Project: .....\$319,510

Create a municipal culvert cooperative that builds on years of road-stream crossing assessments and replacement planning work in the Housatonic River of western Massachusetts and northwest Connecticut. Project will complete 10 shovel-ready culvert designs and utilize two demonstration sites to show other municipalities best practices for stream restoration that benefit native brook trout and reduce flood hazard risks.

#### **Developing a Decision Support Tool to Demonstrate Forest Management Practices at Landscape Scale (NH)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: .....\$165,218  
 Matching Funds: .....\$165,219  
 Total Project: .....\$330,437

Develop and implement a collaborative forest management decision support tool for creating forest and riparian habitat management plans that include adaptive silvicultural prescriptions for large forest blocks in New Hampshire. Project will create at least four forest management plans and two demonstration sites to implement forest management practices on blocks larger than 10,000 acres and improve management on 150 acres to benefit forest birds, including wood thrush and American woodcock.

#### **Implementing an Innovative Approach to Restore Forests on Upper Connecticut River (NH, VT)**

Grantee: Connecticut River Conservancy

Grant Amount: .....\$174,573  
 Matching Funds: .....\$175,000  
 Total Project: .....\$349,573

Restore healthy riparian forests and floodplains in tributaries of the Upper Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont that provide important habitat for freshwater mussels, fish, birds and pollinators. Project will implement an innovative, 10-acre floodplain restoration from an old hay field and restore 3 miles of riparian forest to improve water quality and benefit native brook trout, wood turtle, rusty blackbird and other aquatic and riparian species.

#### **Identifying Forest Blocks and Implementing Strategies to Improve Habitat for Birds (NY, VT)**

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Amount: .....\$200,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$200,000  
 Total Project: .....\$400,000

Improve forest management practices through Audubon's Woods, Wildlife, and Warblers program and continue to work with family forest owners, professional foresters and industry in the Lake Champlain and Upper Hudson watersheds in New York and Lake Champlain Basin in Vermont. Project will restore 450 acres of young forest habitat and 1,000 acres of late successional habitat to benefit American woodcock, golden-winged warbler, black-throated blue warbler, and wood thrush.