



New England Forests and Rivers Fund

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PARTNERS

- Avangrid Foundation
- Zoetis Foundation
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Golden-winged warbler

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Avangrid Foundation, the Zoetis Foundation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a 2022 round of funding for New England Forests and Rivers Fund projects. Eight new or continuing aquatic connectivity and forest management grants totaling \$2 million were awarded. The eight awards announced generated \$3.8 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$5.8 million.

The overall goal of the program is to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse fish and wildlife 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, accelerate adoption of conservation practices on agricultural lands, improve the quality of river and stream systems through targeted riparian and stream restoration, and reduce barriers to fish passage and increase fish access to high quality habitat.

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Restoring Acadian Forest Habitat through Training of Natural Resource Professionals (ME)

Grantee: New England Forestry Foundation

Grant Amount: \$320,000
 Matching Funds: \$200,000
 Total Project Amount: \$520,000

Implement habitat restoration in the Mountains of the Dawn of western Maine through the training of natural resource professionals to integrate landscape-scale habitat restoration into the existing forest management paradigm. Project will restore diverse forest habitats on a minimum of 5,000 acres and work to improve forest conditions and wildlife habitat and protect water quality through innovative management at a landscape scale.

Restoring Fish Passage for Native Brook Trout at Lyman Brook (NH)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited

Grant Amount: \$170,200
 Matching Funds: \$201,500
 Total Project Amount: \$371,700

Remove a barrier to fish passage along a perennial coldwater tributary to Lyman Brook in Milton, New Hampshire, that will provide flood resiliency for the local road infrastructure during high flow events. Project will replace an undersized culvert, open up 1.2 miles of upstream coldwater habitat for eastern brook trout, native salamanders and other aquatic organisms, while providing long term monitoring to gauge the success of the project for aquatic connectivity and reduced flood hazards.

Restoring Riparian Habitat through Alder Regeneration in Northern New Hampshire (NH)

Grantee: Wildlife Management Institute

Grant Amount: \$209,300
 Matching Funds: \$500,000
 Total Project Amount: \$709,300

Regenerate patches of degraded speckled alder habitat in riparian corridors in large forest blocks throughout northern New Hampshire and provide technical assistance including forest management plans to private landowners across the region. Project will improve management on 100 acres of young forest habitat and restore 10 miles of forested riparian buffers that serve as key riparian corridors that support breeding habitats for American woodcock and other young forest dependent species.

Improving Riparian Buffers for Birds, Habitat, and Carbon in the Lake Champlain Basin (VT)

Grantee: The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College

Grant Amount: \$374,000
 Matching Funds: \$189,000
 Total Project Amount: \$563,000

Employ a collaborative approach to restore and enhance riparian habitat across ten sites, including dairy farms and other priority areas within the Lake Champlain Basin. Project



Yellow-spotted salamander

will result in 200 acres of restored riparian habitat and 10,000 trees planted, with multiple co-benefits throughout the region, including improved water quality, enhanced bird and wildlife habitat, and carbon storage and sequestration.

Creating Dynamic Forest Blocks for Golden-winged Warbler and Other Priority Bird Species (NY, VT)

Grantee: Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society

Grant Amount: \$180,000
 Matching Funds: \$250,000
 Total Project Amount: \$430,000

Launch a landscape-scale forest block conservation approach across the St. Lawrence Valley of northern New York and the Champlain Valley in Vermont by leveraging existing NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife foresters and coordinating private and public land habitat work in focal areas and existing demonstration sites for golden-winged warbler habitat enhancement. Project will initiate two forest block landscape areas totaling 4,000 acres and restore 200 acres that will create appropriate habitat.

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Black-throated blue warbler

Engaging Forest Owners and Industry to Improve Multi-State Bird Conservation Habitats (NY, CT, VT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$354,300
 Matching Funds: \$359,800
 Total Project Amount: \$714,100
 Expand engagement with family forest owners and forest industry stakeholders in the St. Lawrence and Connecticut River watersheds to establish three new dynamic forest blocks and continue to implement best practices within current dynamic forest blocks to drive landscape level habitat diversity. Project will restore 450 acres of early-successional habitat and 1,200 acres of late successional habitat, benefitting golden-winged warbler, wood thrush, black-throated blue warbler and American woodcock.

Implementing Riparian Buffer Restoration Efforts for Turtles and Priority Species (CT, MA, VT, NH)

Grantee: Connecticut River Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$158,700
 Matching Funds: \$160,000
 Total Project Amount: \$318,700
 Plant forested riparian buffers on privately owned sites

in federal, state and local priority areas in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. Project will plant 6,000 trees on 10 sites, restore 2.5 miles of forested buffers and restore 15 acres of agricultural field buffers to improve water quality, and enhance the long-term persistence of native aquatic species, including eastern brook trout, diadromous fishes, spotted turtle, Blanding’s turtle and wood turtle.

Baskahegan Lake and Crooked Brook Flowage Fish Passage Project

Grantee: Atlantic Salmon Federation
 Grant Amount: \$264,000
 Matching Funds: \$1,962,800
 Total Project Amount: \$2,226,800
 Construct a pool-and-weir fishway at the Crooked Brook Dam on Baskahegan Stream in the town of Danforth, Maine. Project will restore fish passage into the upper Penobscot River watershed for native diadromous and freshwater fish species, improve public access and recreation opportunities for the local community at the site, and support the 20-year momentum to rebuild sea-run fisheries throughout their historic range in the Penobscot watershed.