



# Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- Avangrid Foundation

## 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 \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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New England cottontail | Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and Avangrid Foundation announced a 2023-year round of funding for Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund projects. Three new or continuing grants to restore and sustain healthy rivers, forests and grasslands totaling \$541,000 were awarded. The three awards announced generated \$463,600 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$1,004,600.

The program seeks to restore the quality and connectivity of stream and riparian habitats with a focus on improving habitat for river herring, Atlantic salmon, eastern brook trout and wood turtles, improving management of forest blocks to enhance age and structural diversity, resulting in improved forest conditions for native wildlife, with a focus on improving habitat for golden-winged warbler and New England cottontail, and promote hayfield management that allows for successful grassland bird breeding, with a specific focus on habitat for bobolink.

*(continued)*



River herring in Maine

**Enhancing Structural Diversity in Forested Landscapes to Benefit New England Cottontail (CT, ME)**

Grantee: University of New Hampshire  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$72,600  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$222,600

Implement canopy thinning treatments that mimic forest regeneration gaps within large forest blocks in New England cottontail focus areas, enhance habitat age and structural diversity, and monitor those areas for species response to the treatments to benefit the cottontail and other young forest-dependent wildlife species in western Connecticut and southern Maine. Project will improve management practices on 85 acres adjacent or near existing species populations.

**Promoting Delayed Harvesting of Hay to Benefit Bobolink and Other Grassland Birds (MA, NH, VT)**

Grantee: Massachusetts Audubon Society  
 Grant Amount: ..... \$300,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$300,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$600,000

Recruit farmers through an incentive payment program to

delay harvesting hay in order to reduce disturbance to nesting birds and their habitat and increase the reproductive success of bobolink and other grassland birds in the Lake Champlain Basin and the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Project will improve management on 1,500 acres of farmland and enroll 30 new landowners in the program.

**Prioritizing Removal of Barriers to Aquatic Connectivity in the White River Watershed (VT)**

Grantee: White River Partnership  
 Grant Amount: ..... 91,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$91,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$182,000

Establish priorities to improve flood management and restore aquatic connectivity through culvert assessments and barrier removal design for the first and second Branches of Vermont’s White River watershed. Project will assess 375 stream barriers and produce two engineered designs for barrier removal, setting-the-stage for implementation to enhance community resilience to storms and increase access to stream habitat for brook trout.