



NFWF

Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund

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PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Sylvamo

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org



Golden-winged warbler

BACKGROUND

The Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations in the New England states, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, plus the Lake Champlain, Saint Lawrence River, Saranac River and Upper Hudson watersheds in New York. This program annually awards competitive grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$300,000 each.

From 2015 through 2025, the program has awarded over \$16 million in grant funds, matched by more than \$26 million from grantees for a total conservation impact of more than \$42 million. The 110 grants will restore early successional and mature forest habitat, modify and replace barriers to fish movement, restore riparian and instream habitat, and engage hundreds of volunteers in forest habitat restoration and stream connectivity projects.



(continued)



New England cottontail

These projects are expected to:

- Open 1,951 miles of streams for brook trout and river herring through modification or replacement of 182 barriers to fish passage
- Restore 6,434 acres of young forest habitat for New England cottontail and American woodcock
- Restore 9,662 acres of mature forest habitat for black-throated blue warbler and wood thrush
- Engage 3,083 volunteers in on-the-ground conservation

Funding for the Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund is provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and Sylvamo.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **Restore Stream and Riparian Habitats** - Improve the quality and connectivity of stream and riparian habitats to enhance the long-term persistence of native species,

with a focus on improving habitat for wood turtle, river herring, Atlantic salmon and brook trout.

- **Improve Upland Forest Health** - Enhance age and structural diversity that demonstrates improved forest conditions for native wildlife, with a focus on improving habitat for golden-winged warbler and New England cottontail.
- **Increase Grassland Bird Habitat** - Invest in management of hayfields to allow for successful breeding of grassland birds, with a specific focus on habitat for bobolink.

The fund's investments are targeted to contiguous forest blocks of at least 5,000 acres across New England and eastern New York that use a range of forest management practices to create a diversity of age and structure for native bird species, and where populations of Atlantic salmon, brook trout and river herring can most benefit from removal of barriers that impede fish passage.