



NFWF

New England Forests and Rivers 2019 Grant Slate

NFWF CONTACTS

Amanda Bassow

Director,
Northeastern
Regional Office
amanda.bassow@nfwf.org
202-857-0166

John Wright

Manager,
Northeastern
Regional Office
john.wright@nfwf.org
202-595-2478

PARTNERS

- American Forest Foundation
- Avangrid
- Eversource
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
202-857-0166



Bay-breasted warbler | Credit: Andy Reago and Chrissy McClarren

OVERVIEW

The New England Forests and Rivers Fund strives to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird populations, as well as freshwater and diadromous fish populations. In 2019, 14 grants totaling \$1.8 million were awarded, leveraging \$2.8 million in grantee matching contributions and generating a total on-the-ground impact of \$4.6 million.

The program invests in projects that:

- Strengthen the health of forest systems by improving the management of public and private forestlands to create a mosaic of mixed age forests in the region;
- Provide incentives to strengthen habitat conservation on working forests through flexible technical assistance that is appropriate for the forest stage(s) being targeted;
- Improve the quality of river and stream systems through targeted riparian and stream restoration;
- Reduce barriers to fish passage and increase fish access to high quality habitat, thereby increasing overall aquatic connectivity; and
- Enhance biodiversity of forest and river systems and increase populations of species representative of system health, such as New England cottontail, American woodcock, bay-breasted warbler, Canada warbler, wood thrush, river herring and Eastern brook trout.

(continued)



Eastern brook trout

Improve Habitat on Private Forests in Mountains of the Dawn through Technical Assistance (ME)

Grantee: New England Forestry Foundation
 Grant Award:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$376,000
Total Amount:..... \$576,000

Provide private forest landowners in the Mountains of the Dawn region of western Maine with technical and financial assistance to improve management of forest blocks to benefit key bird and fish species including Bicknell’s thrush, black-throated blue warbler and eastern brook trout. Project will engage at least 15 landowners to increase the amount of mature and late successional forest by compensating landowners who leave older trees on the property to mature.

Restore Brook Trout Habitat in Northeastern Vermont with the Addition of Large Woody Material

Grantee: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
 Grant Award:..... \$53,768
 Matching Funds: \$307,768
Total Amount:..... \$361,536

Restore habitat for native eastern brook trout on public and private lands and increase brook trout biomass by adding

large woody material in tributaries of the Connecticut River watershed in northeastern Vermont. Project will improve brook trout habitat in 19 miles of stream by adding large woody material that will increase pool frequency and depth, increase cover for brook trout and other fish and retain organic material and fine sediment that previously was not captured.

Restore Fish Passage for Brook Trout in Stearns Brook, a Tributary to the Androscoggin River (NH)

Grantee: Androscoggin River Watershed Council
 Grant Award:..... \$119,000
 Matching Funds: \$251,100
Total Amount:..... \$370,100

Restore spawning and rearing habitat for eastern brook trout in the headwaters of Stearns Brook, a tributary of the Androscoggin River in northeast New Hampshire, by removing two barriers to fish passage and reducing erosion and sedimentation from Success Pond Road. Project will install bridges at two stream crossings, restoring access to 14 miles of upstream and downstream coldwater habitat, and reconstruct half a mile of road to minimize erosion and sediment runoff.



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Create and Implement a Comprehensive Forest Management Plan in the Rangeley Lakes Region (ME)

Grantee: Maine Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust
 Grant Award:..... \$53,008
 Matching Funds: \$53,966
Total Amount:..... \$106,974

Develop and implement a comprehensive forest management plan for conserved lands owned by the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust and the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve Trust in the Rangeley Lakes region in the Upper Androscoggin River watershed in Maine. Project will produce a comprehensive plan for 20 parcels totaling almost 12,000 acres and restore 1,000 of those acres to mature forest habitat for black-throated blue warbler and improve riparian habitat for eastern brook trout.

Increase Capacity for Young Forest Habitat Management to Benefit New England Cottontail in Maine

Grantee: Massachusetts Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
 Grant Award:..... \$74,233
 Matching Funds: \$172,288
Total Amount:..... \$246,521

Provide training, outreach and technical assistance to restore habitat for New England cottontail on public and private lands. The Maine New England Cottontail Conservation Coordinator, a position that spans many agencies, will increase capacity for on-the-ground implementation of young forest habitat in southern Maine, creating 400 acres of new young forest and shrub habitat to benefit New England cottontail, American woodcock and pollinators and provide technical assistance to 50 landowners.

Restore Coldwater and Diadromous Fish Habitat in Howlett Brook Watershed (MA)

Grantee: Ipswich River Watershed Association
 Grant Award:..... \$163,577
 Matching Funds: \$297,971
Total Amount:..... \$461,548

Assess and improve fish passage in Howlett Brook, a tributary to the Ipswich River in northeastern Massachusetts, by prioritizing and removing barriers to passage for eastern brook trout and river herring. Project will complete conceptual designs for 12 barriers and 30 percent designs for another six barriers, assess the status of eastern brook trout populations, remove two high-priority barriers and open 8 miles of stream and 68 acres of historic pond spawning habitat for river herring.

Restore Eastern Brook Trout Streams through Large Wood Additions in the New Hampshire Lakes Region

Grantee: Belknap County Conservation District
 Grant Award:..... \$192,764
 Matching Funds: \$200,133
Total Amount:..... \$392,897

Restore streams with native eastern brook trout populations in the Winnepesaukee and Saco Watersheds of New Hampshire's Lakes Region by using large wood to improve stream function, water quality and pool habitat. Project will partner with local communities and landowners to restore five priority stream demonstration sites totaling 7.7 miles that were selected by conservation partners and state and federal agencies.

Engage Family Woodland Owners to Improve Forest Bird Habitat and Restore Fish Passage (ME)

Grantee: Maine Forest Service
 Grant Award:..... \$199,989
 Matching Funds: \$267,032
Total Amount:..... \$467,021

Implement an innovative outreach program for family woodland owners with between 10 and 1,000 acres in priority watersheds in Maine, developing or updating forest management plans to maximize benefits for fish and wildlife. Project will develop or update 30 forest management plans, implement activities on 300 acres to benefit young forest species like American woodcock and late successional forest species like black-throated blue warbler and address 10 barriers to fish passage.

Install a Fishway at Branch Pond Dam to Open Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout and River Herring (ME)

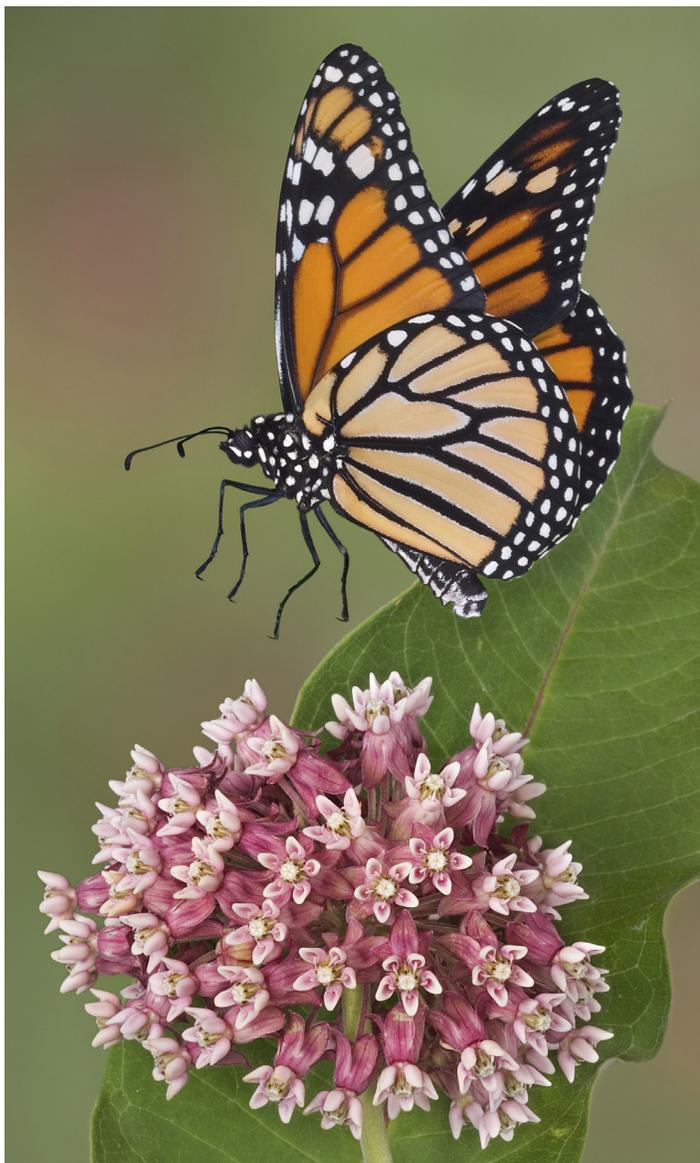
Grantee: Midcoast Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$116,880
 Matching Funds: \$200,000
Total Amount:..... \$316,880

Restore access to historic habitat for sea-run brook trout, river herring, and other anadromous fish by installing a fishway at Branch Pond Dam on the Sheepscot River in southern Maine. Project will modify one barrier to fish passage at a historically important site with an Alaskan steep pass fishway, restore access to 322 acres of pond habitat and provide public access and recreational opportunities for the community.

Restore Passage for Sea-Run Brook Trout and Other Species at Frost Gully Brook in Freeport (ME)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Award:..... \$120,000
 Matching Funds: \$164,250
Total Amount:..... \$284,250

Remove barriers to passage of anadromous fish at Frost



Monarch butterfly

Gully Brook, a tributary to the Presumpscot River in southern Maine. Project will remove five barriers to fish passage, including three dams and two undersized culverts, and improve access to 2 miles of stream habitat for sea-run (salter) brook trout, blueback herring, sea lamprey and American eel.

Restore Fish Passage for River Herring at Box Mill Dam in the Sebasticook River Watershed (ME)

Grantee: Maine Rivers
 Grant Award:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$200,000
Total Amount:..... \$400,000
 Install a fishway on Outlet Stream in the Sebasticook River

watershed to restore access to historic spawning and nursery habitat for river herring and other diadromous fish. Project will design and construct a Denil fishway at the Box Mill Dam in the town of Vassalboro, which will restore access to more than 3,900 acres of habitat in China Lake and more than 5 miles of habitat in Outlet Stream and Redd Brook.

Engage Private Forest Landowners to Improve Management of Forest Habitats for Wildlife (VT)

Grantee: NorthWoods Stewardship Center
 Grant Award:..... \$53,585
 Matching Funds: \$55,628
Total Amount:..... \$109,213

Engage private forest landowners in stewardship of their land in northeastern Vermont by providing no-cost conservation management plans using the Vermont Conservation Design and other existing data to identify priority habitats and appropriate strategies to benefit multiple species. Project will create management plans for 50 landowners and restore 3,000 acres of mature forest habitat for black-throated blue warbler, 200 acres of young forest habitat for American woodcock.

Create Large-Scale Pollinator Habitat in Highway Rights-of-Way throughout New Hampshire

Grantee: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
 Grant Award:..... \$50,184
 Matching Funds: \$50,206
Total Amount:..... \$100,390

Identify opportunities to create pollinator habitat throughout the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's statewide network of rights-of-way. Project will create 13 demonstration sites to showcase the value of creating early successional habitat on rights-of-way that benefits high priority pollinators, including species of concern like monarch butterfly, yellow bumble bee, yellow-banded bumble bee and American bumble bee.

Design Fish Passage Solutions at Five Barriers Along the Sabattus River for Anadromous Fish (ME)

Grantee: Maine Department of Marine Resources
 Grant Award:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$201,061
Total Amount:..... \$401,061

Provide technical assistance for the design and permitting needed to remove all five barriers to anadromous fish passage in the Sabattus River, a tributary to the Androscoggin River in central Maine. Project will complete full design, engineering and permitting for future removal or replacement of five barriers to fish passage that will, when implemented, open 75 miles of historic stream habitat and 2,400 acres of pond habitat for river herring, Atlantic salmon and other anadromous fish.