



NFWF

New England Forests and Rivers 2018 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



Bay-breasted warbler | Credit: Dan Pancamo

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

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. 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
- 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.

Grants were evaluated on established criteria including 1) program goals and priorities, 2) technical merit, 3) budget, 4) partnership strength, 5) funding need, 6) conservation plan and context, 7) monitoring and 8) sustainability.

The project slate represents a total recommended award amount of \$1.03 million which will be further leveraged by \$2.56 million in grantee matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of more than \$3.69 million.

(continued)



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Targeting Municipalities and Private Landowners to Improve Stream Health and Connectivity (MA, VT)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Grant Amount: \$66,433
 Matching Funds: \$71,500
Project Total: \$137,933

Assist municipalities, private landowners and contractors to prioritize stream connectivity and coldwater habitat restoration projects using available data on road-stream crossings. Project will use the new Forests for Fish program to recruit six municipalities and 75 landowners to increase acres under easement by 200 acres and develop restoration plans based on culvert replacement prioritization.

Reconnecting Eastern Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon Habitat on the Kennebec and Piscataquis Rivers (ME)

Grantee: Atlantic Salmon Federation
 Grant Amount: \$140,000
 Matching Funds: \$197,532
Project Total: \$337,532

Replace four undersized culverts on tributaries to the Upper Kennebec and Piscataquis rivers to restore access to historic habitat for eastern brook trout and Atlantic salmon in Maine. Project will restore 23 miles of high quality coldwater habitat and restore natural ecological processes to the streams, including sediment movement, nutrient processing and movement of wood.

Engaging Stakeholders to Improve Priority Bird Habitats in the Upper Hudson and Lake Champlain (NY, VT)

Grantee: National Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$187,841
 Matching Funds: \$248,897
Project Total: \$436,738

Provide technical assistance to landowners, foresters and industry to improve the mosaic of forest habitats to benefit multiple bird species including golden-winged warbler, American woodcock, black-throated blue warbler and wood thrush. Project will restore 265 acres of young forest habitat, improve 900 acres of late successional habitat and develop a pilot program with International Paper that prioritizes procurement of wood fiber from forests being managed with bird-friendly techniques.

Restoring Aquatic Connectivity for Critical Eastern Brook Trout and Diadromous Fish Populations (ME)

Grantee: Maine Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$156,193
 Matching Funds: \$1,000,000
Project Total: \$1,156,193

Increase abundance and distribution of eastern brook trout and diadromous fish, including Atlantic salmon, in blocks of high elevation forest in the Saco, Presumpscot, Penobscot

and Kennebec river basins of Maine. Project will result in replacement of 34 high priority stream crossing barriers and access to 66 miles of historic high quality stream habitat, using the U.S. Forest Service Stream Simulation Design methodology, an ecosystem-based approach for constructing road-stream crossings.

Planning for Restored Aquatic Connectivity for Eastern Brook Trout on the Manhan River (MA)

Grantee: Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration
 Grant Amount: \$51,000
 Matching Funds: \$53,000
Project Total: \$104,000

Complete final engineering designs and draft permits to remove a fish passage barrier that is at significant risk of failure in Southhampton, Massachusetts on the Manhan River, a tributary of the Connecticut River. When implemented, project will lead to reconnection of 27 miles of eastern brook trout habitat in a state-designated coldwater fishery and the elimination of a public safety risk that would impact the availability of drinking water to the town.

Creating Road-Stream Crossing Management Plans to Pass Eastern Brook Trout and Reduce Flood Risk (MA)

Grantee: Housatonic Valley Association
 Grant Amount: \$85,399
 Matching Funds: \$125,000
Project Total: \$210,399

Create road-stream crossing management plans for municipalities in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts that prioritize culvert replacements, improve fish habitat and reduce flood risk. Project will develop management plans for five towns that will serve as a tool to secure financing for implementation of culvert replacements that improve aquatic connectivity for eastern brook trout.

Improving Fish Passage and Habitat for Multiple Diadromous Fish Species on the Sheepscot River (ME)

Grantee: Midcoast Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$73,700
 Matching Funds: \$75,000
Project Total: \$148,500

Modify a fish passage barrier on the Sheepscot River in Alna, Maine to reconnect multiple anadromous fish species, including river herring, Atlantic salmon and sea-run brook trout, to historic stream habitat. Project will restore access to 167 miles of stream habitat and 847 acres of pond habitat to enhance long-term population sustainability and provide access to refugia for coldwater aquatic species.



Eastern brook trout

Restoring Riparian and Instream Habitat for Trout in the Connecticut River Watershed (MA, NH, VT)

Grantee: Connecticut River Conservancy

Grant Amount: \$151,565

Matching Funds: \$672,500

Project Total: \$824,065

Provide targeted outreach and technical assistance to landowners to implement riparian, instream habitat and water quality projects in priority eastern brook trout sub-watersheds of the Middle and Upper Connecticut River. Project will plant riparian buffers on 6 acres to reduce stream temperatures and increase wildlife habitat, and create three miles of restored instream habitat through large wood and log jam additions that increase structural complexity.

Completing Final Designs for Fish Barrier Modifications on the Upper Connecticut River (NH, VT)

Grantee: American Rivers

Grant Amount: \$114,990

Matching Funds: \$115,000

Project Total: \$229,990

Complete final engineering designs and permitting for three fish barrier modifications on coldwater tributaries of the Upper Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont. Project will set the stage for implementation that restores natural river processes, reconnects over 45 miles of historic habitat for eastern brook trout and increases the availability of coldwater refugia.