



# NFWF

## New England Forests and Rivers Fund

### 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 Foundation
- Eversource
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C., 20005  
202-857-0166



Eastern brook trout

### BACKGROUND

Since 2015, the New England 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 five New England states, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, plus the Upper Hudson and Lake Champlain watersheds in New York. This program annually awards competitive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000 each.

In its first five years, the program has awarded over \$5.3 million in grant funds, matched by \$9.2 million from grantees for a total conservation impact of more than \$14.5 million, to 48 grants that 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 in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York. These projects are expected to:

- Open 1,050 miles of streams for eastern brook trout and river herring through barrier modification or replacement
- Improve 3,150 acres of young forest habitat for New England cottontail and American woodcock
- Recruit at least 1,945 volunteers to engage in on-the-ground conservation

Major funding for the New England Forests and Rivers Fund is provided by the American Forest Foundation, Avangrid, Eversource, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the New England Forests and Rivers Fund are to:

- 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.