



Grant Highlight: New England Cottontail

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INITIATIVE DETAILS

To learn more, go to
www.nfwf.org/newengland

PARTNERS

The New England Forests and Rivers Fund is supported by funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Eversource's Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife.

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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BACKGROUND

Partners for New Hampshire's Fish and Wildlife is a new partnership between Eversource and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers in New Hampshire. In July 2015, the partnership announced the initial round of awards for grants supporting nine conservation projects in New Hampshire.

GRANT HIGHLIGHT: RESTORING YOUNG FORESTS TO BENEFIT NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL AND AMERICAN WOODCOCK (NH)

Grantee:	Wildlife Management Institute
Key Partners:	Wagner Forest Management and Plum Creek Timber Company
Project Location:	Throughout the State of New Hampshire
Project Period:	September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2017
Eversource Funds:	\$100,000
NFWF Grant:	\$100,000
Grantee Matching Funds:	\$200,000
Total Project:	\$400,000

Promote and implement young forest management activities on private land in northern and southern New Hampshire, to benefit a suite of species, including New England cottontail and American woodcock. Provide technical assistance on private lands owned by Wagner Woodlands and Plum Creek Timberlands to create new management plans and implement improved management practices.



Credit: USFWS

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Utilize habitat best management practices

(BMPs) that have been previously developed for American woodcock and New England cottontail to increase the amount of suitable habitat. Feature BMPs on habitat demonstration areas.

- Provide technical assistance to public and private landowners to identify and implement habitat management projects.
- Implement three projects on Wagner Woodlands lands to benefit American woodcock and identify five additional projects with private, municipal, state and federal lands partners.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Increase early successional forest habitat by 140 acres.
- Conduct forest management on 21.8 acres to add to existing field shrub edges and riparian vegetation at the Bartlett Brook Wildlife Management Area.
- Create three roosting fields totaling about 15 acres for American woodcock.



Grant Highlight: Riparian Habitat Buffers

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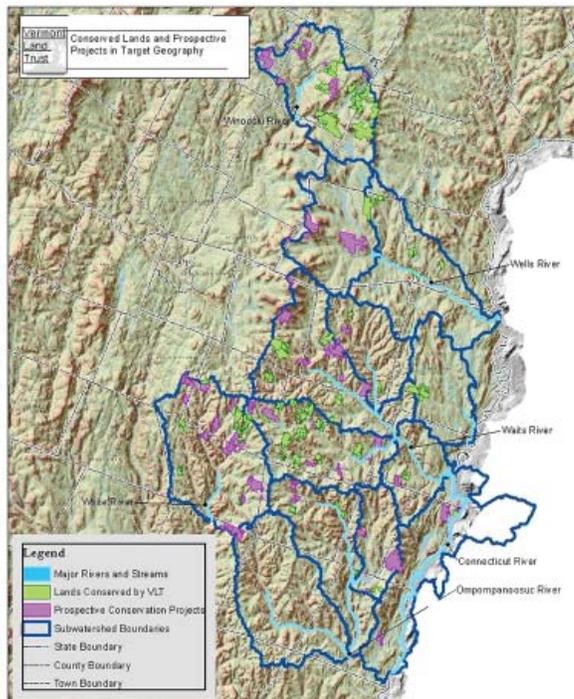
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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: CENTRAL VERMONT CLEAR WATERS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (VT)

Grantee: Vermont Land Trust
 Key Partners: Orange County Headwaters Project, State of Vermont, Trout Unlimited
 Project Location: 13 sub-watersheds in east central Vermont, including the Wells, Waits, Ompompanoosuc, White and Winooski Rivers.
 Project Period: September 1, 2015 to July 3, 2017
 NFWF Grant: \$75,000
 Grantee Matching Funds: \$75,079
Total Project: \$150,079



Credit: Vermont Land Trust

Improve riparian habitat in 13 Vermont sub-watersheds in east central Vermont by leveraging landowner relationships, regional partnerships and technical expertise. All of the watersheds being targeted, including the Wells, Waits and Ompompanoosuc River watersheds are rated as intact, high-priority watersheds for eastern brook trout. At least two projects will establish permanent riparian buffers.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Increase understanding of the value and mechanisms of riparian protection to landowners, members and the public through a community event with 25 attendees.
- Provide ecological assessments, management recommendations, and referrals to the Conservation Reserve Program, and/or technical assistance for buffer funding and stream crossing improvements through targeted outreach to 15-20 landowners.

- Develop a list of at least six strong prospects for future buffer and stream crossing work.
- Assess at least five stream reaches for future riparian buffer and stream crossing projects.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Implement riparian buffer restoration projects on at least two properties.
- Protect permanent riparian buffers on one mile of stream.



Grant Highlight: Conservation Easement

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: FIVE PEAKS, FOUR RIVERS CONSERVATION PROJECT (VT)

Grantee: Vermont Land Trust
 Key Partners: The Nature Conservancy-Vermont Chapter, State of Vermont
 Project Location:..... Town of Westmore, Orleans County, Vermont
 Project Period:..... January 1, 2015 to November 30, 2015
 NFWF Grant: \$53,000
 Grantee Matching Funds:..... \$103,765
Total Project: \$156,765



Credit: Vermont Land Trust

Permanently protect, through conservation easements, a 2,965-acre property adjacent to Willoughby State Forest, Bald Hill Wildlife Management Area and the Lake Willoughby National Natural Landmark. The property contains frontage on 22 coldwater streams in the Memphremagog watershed and valuable

habitat for eastern brook trout due to its 50-foot wide streamside forest buffers and montane and boreal forest habitat five summits and smaller knobs above 2,000 feet elevation.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Add permanent conservation easements to a significant parcel of private forestland, which will be managed through implementation of best management practices, enabling the creation of a mosaic of mixed age forests to benefit multiple species.
- Enhance landscape connectivity in an internationally significant wildlife corridor.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Long-term protection of almost 3,000 acres of private land that provides connectivity to 12,000 acres of previously protected forest.
- Long-term protection of 8 miles of cold-water streams.
- Access to four public hiking trails leading to Haystack Mountain, Bald Mountain and Pisgah Mountain.
- Enhance habitat connectivity and the integrity of forest and river systems to increase populations of priority species, such as American woodcock, Bicknell's thrush and eastern brook trout.



Grant Highlight: Bicknell's Thrush

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: MAPPING ABUNDANCE AND ESTIMATING POPULATION SIZE OF BICKNELL'S THRUSH (ME, NH, VT)

Grantee:	Vermont Center for Ecostudies
Key Partners:	University of Massachusetts Landscape Ecology Lab
Project Location:	High-Elevation Forests in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont
Project Period:	June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2017
Eversource Funds:	\$35,000
NFWF Grant:	\$43,588
Grantee Matching Funds:	\$128,255
Total Project:	\$206,843

Produce two spatially explicit estimates of abundance and population size of Bicknell's



Credit: Kent McFarland

thrush to predict how abundance, population size, and distribution may change in response to forest succession and disturbance events. Fill critical information gaps identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group. Results will help identify priority habitat areas for future conservation.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Generate spatially explicit estimates of abundance of Bicknell's thrush.
- Estimate population size of Bicknell's thrush in the United States in each year from 2011-2016.
- Predict future distribution and population size of Bicknell's thrush and other montane-forest birds under different scenarios of climate and landscape change using the UMass Landscape Ecology Lab's Designing Sustainable Landscapes modeling framework.
- Evaluate progress on goals established in the Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Action Plan.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Improved ability for the Fish and Wildlife Service to make informed decisions about the status of Bicknell's thrush.
- Recruitment of 100 volunteers and monitoring of 650 stream and forest sites.
- Identify priority areas most able to provide sustainable high-elevation habitat.



Grant Highlight: Stream Habitat Restoration

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: SCIENCE-BASED HABITAT RESTORATION OF THE UPPER NARRAGUAGUS RIVER WATERSHED (ME)

Grantee:	Project SHARE
Key Partners: New England Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, State of Maine	
Project Location: Upper Narraguagus River Watershed in Hancock and Washington County, Maine	
Project Period:	June 15, 2015 to June 14, 2017
NFWF Grant:	\$100,000
Grantee Matching Funds:	\$100,040
Total Project:	\$200,040



Credit: Project SHARE

Restore instream and riparian habitat on 80 square miles of the upper Narraguagus River watershed to benefit Atlantic salmon, eastern brook trout, river herring, and American eel. Replace six road stream crossings, remove five remnant barriers to fish passage and construct five large wood structures to restore connectivity to 17.9 miles of

habitat with increased complexity.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Restore stream connectivity through removal of culverts and other barriers to fish passage so fish can access spawning, rearing and refuge habitats.
- Restore instream habitat and water quality by restoring hydrology and enhancing habitat complexity through addition of large boulders and large woody debris.
- Perform outreach to private landowners and provide technical assistance on the installation of large woody debris and log jam structures.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Hold two habitat restoration workshops in 2016 attracting 100-200 participants.
- Recruit 30 volunteers to assist in road crossing assessments and design.
- Replace six road-stream crossings and remove five remnant dams to reopen at least 10 stream miles to native fish.
- Construct five large wood structures as habitat complexity demonstration projects.



Grant Highlight: Outreach and Assistance

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LIMITED RESOURCE LANDOWNERS IN THE CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED (MA, NH, VT)

Grantee:	Connecticut River Watershed Council
Key Partners:	New Hampshire Fish and Game, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Project Location:.....	Connecticut River Watersheds of MA, NH and VT
Project Period:.....	August 1, 2015 to August 1, 2017
Eversource Funds:.....	\$25,000
NFWF Grant:	\$39,540
Grantee Matching Funds:.....	\$70,000
Total Project:	\$134,540



Credit: Connecticut River Watershed Council

Provide technical and financial assistance to at least six private landowners unable to meet cost-share requirements for improving riparian and instream habitats on their land. Target priority watersheds with high potential for sediment and nutrient loading reductions and implement habitat best management practices to restore riparian and instream habitat and meet the goals of Long Island Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Increase on-the-ground priority conservation projects by eliminating financial roadblocks on private working lands and leveraging public resources and private philanthropy.
- Establish effective working relationships with owners of working lands that will produce designed and implemented projects.
- Employ practices that include riparian buffer plantings with native trees and shrubs, root wad and bioengineering bank stabilization, and instream habitat creation and enhancement.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Design, permit and implement two projects in each state to restore riparian and instream habitat.
- Restore 6 miles of stream by creating instream habitat for eastern brook trout.
- Enhance water quality in 12 miles of stream through implementation of erosion control best practices.



Grant Highlight: Fish Passage

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: BLACKSTONE BROOK FISH PASSAGE RESTORATION FOR ATLANTIC SALMON (ME)

Grantee: Atlantic Salmon Federation
Key Partners: Maine Department of Marine Resources, NOAA Restoration Center
Project Location: Church Road, Blanchard Township, Piscataquis County, Maine
Project Period: April 15, 2015 to October 15, 2016
NFWF Grant: \$60,000
Grantee Matching Funds: \$60,000
Total Project: \$120,000

Replace an 8-foot concrete box culvert with a new bridge on a county-owned road that



Credit: Atlantic Salmon Federation

crosses Blackstone Brook, an important headwater stream in the Piscataquis River watershed considered critical habitat for Atlantic salmon in central Maine. Project will restore access for eastern brook trout and Atlantic salmon to high-quality habitat while also restoring natural stream dynamics, flow and function, and eliminating a source of sedimentation from the existing gravel road.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Replace an undersized culvert on Blackstone Brook

in the Piscataquis sub-watershed with a 51-foot bridge.

- Conduct three years of post-project monitoring of movement of large woody debris upstream and downstream of the new bridge.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Restore access to nine miles of critical Atlantic salmon and brook trout habitat in a high-priority tributary of the Penobscot River.
- Eliminate annual spring flooding of the road and reduce the cost of road maintenance.
- Restore natural stream morphology and sediment movement to the system.



Grant Highlight: Stream Barrier Assessment

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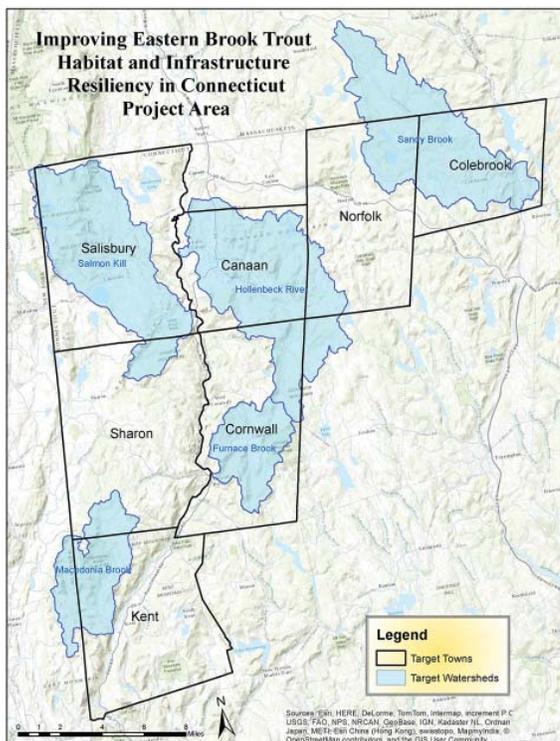
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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: IMPROVING EASTERN BROOK TROUT HABITAT AND INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY IN NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT (CT)

Grantee: Housatonic Valley Association
 Key Partners: Aton Forest, Trout Unlimited, Princeton Hydro LLC
 Project Location: ... Towns of Sharon, Salisbury, Canaan, Cornwall, Colebrook, Kent, Norfolk
 Project Period: June 1, 2015 to July 15, 2017
 NFWF Grant: \$125,000
 Grantee Matching Funds: \$270,165
Total Project:\$395,165



Credit: Housatonic Valley Association

Assess 586 road stream crossings in northwestern Connecticut to identify barriers to fish movement and potential flood risks in five target watersheds: Macedonia Brook, Salmon Kill, Furnace Brook, Hollenbeck River and Sandy Brook. Prioritize these crossings for replacement based on the potential for successful habitat restoration and reduction of flood risks, by utilizing the U.S. Forest Service Stream Simulation Design method and implementing 12 demonstration sites.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Complete stream habitat continuity assessments at all road-stream crossings.
- Model flow capacity and stream channel compatibility at the road-stream crossings.
- Work with town leaders and partners to identify priority crossings for replacement.
- Assemble road-stream crossing inventory documents to facilitate municipal adoption.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Assess 586 new crossings for Stream Habitat Continuity and upload them to the North Atlantic Aquatic Continuity Collaborative database.
- Identify and rank town priorities for 1-3 replacements in each watershed.
- Facilitate formal adoption of Road-Stream Crossing Inventory and Management Plans.



Grant Highlight: Stewardship And Restoration

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK: NEW ENGLAND - MOBILIZING VOLUNTEERS FOR FOREST AND RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Grantee:	University of New Hampshire
Key Partners:	University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
Project Location:	State of New Hampshire
Project Period:	December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2017
Eversource Funds:	\$50,000
NFWF Grant:	\$50,000
Grantee Matching Funds:	\$100,000
Total Project:	\$200,000



Credit: Malin Clyde

Increase the capacity of local conservation organizations, public agencies and local communities to work with volunteers on conservation of New Hampshire’s lands and waters. Provide technical assistance and training in volunteer management on at least 15 habitat restoration projects and three citizen science projects in three

focus areas, including habitat restoration for forest and riparian species in greatest need of conservation, innovative approaches for invasive plant removal, and citizen science programs.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Provide technical assistance and training about working with volunteers to implement habitat restoration projects that benefit species in greatest need of conservation.
- Provide technical assistance to citizen science projects on wildlife and/or water quality.
- Deploy new marketing strategies to increase participation in the Stewardship Network.
- Implement technology upgrades to a web-based portal to enhance volunteer recruitment.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Engage 300 volunteers in habitat restoration projects in three different counties.
- Conduct volunteer citizen science surveys on at least 250 acres of private land.
- Increase volunteer subscriptions to the Stewardship Network by 20 percent.
- Improve search functioning for events (by geography and topic), and better facilitate social media sharing of events.



NFWF

Grant Highlight: Riparian Forest Buffers

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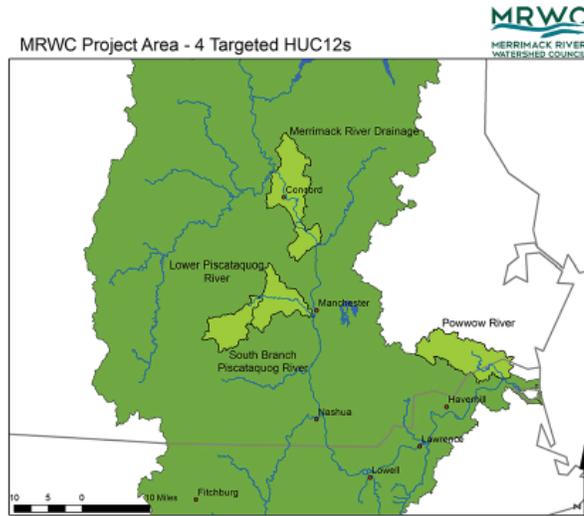
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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: EXPANDING RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY USING A PRECISION STORMWATER APPROACH (MA, NH)

Grantee:Merrimack River Watershed Council
Key Partners: University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension
Project Location:..... Hillsborough, Merrimack and Rockingham counties
in New Hampshire and Essex County in Massachusetts
Project Period:.....August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2017
Eversource Funds:.....\$37,576
NFWF Grant:\$66,395
Grantee Matching Funds:..... \$124,446

Total Project:.....\$228,417



Credit: Merrimack River Watershed Council

Restore streamside forest buffers in four targeted New Hampshire and Massachusetts sub-watersheds of the Merrimack River to improve water quality and habitat for eastern brook trout and other aquatic species. Provide training and technical assistance to landowners and municipalities, resulting in the planting of mixed native seedlings on demonstration sites.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Reach out to interested towns and private landowners about restoring or protecting streamside buffers that are most likely to improve water

- quality and benefit wildlife.
- Implement forest stewardship plans that improve streamside forest buffers through outreach to stakeholders.
- Train private foresters and municipal officials in forested buffer restoration best practices.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Better manage 1,000 acres of private and municipal forest added to the state Forest Stewardship Program within the riparian buffers of four targeted sub-watersheds.
- Create 20 forest stewardship plans and demonstrate best management practices to 27 towns and 60 landowners.
- Restore one-half mile of riparian buffer, spread over nine demonstration sites, using 10 volunteers to plant 1,500 saplings.



Grant Highlight: Culvert Replacement

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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: KINNE BROOK AQUATIC CONNECTIVITY RESTORATION (MA)

Grantee: Trout Unlimited
 Key Partners: Town of Chester, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
 Project Location: Kinne Brook, Town of Chester, Hampden County, Massachusetts
 Project Period: July 15, 2015 to July 15, 2017
 NFWF Grant: \$134,429
 Grantee Matching Funds: \$232,236
Total Project: \$366,665

Trout Unlimited will restore aquatic and riparian habitat by designing road-stream crossings using the U.S. Forest Service stream simulation technique, and replacing two

undersized culverts on Kinne Brook, a tributary of the Westfield River. The project will restore access to interconnected coldwater habitat for brook trout, sculpin and other native species.



Credit: Trout Unlimited

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Restore access to interconnected coldwater habitat for eastern brook trout, slimy sculpin and other native coldwater species.

- Install large wood for habitat development in Kinne and Skunk Brooks adjacent to or near Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Management Areas.
- Design road-stream crossings to accommodate larger storm flows and reduce erosion.
- Conduct monitoring surveys to record pre- and post-restoration stream conditions.
- Engage citizens and volunteers from the community in stewardship of the resources and fishing opportunities.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Replace two culverts with structures that provide fish passage and meet the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards.
- Restore access to more than 30 miles of interconnected coldwater habitat for brook trout, sculpin and other native coldwater species.
- Create large woody habitat along 4,000 feet of channel in Kinne and Skunk Brooks.
- Engage 400 citizens and volunteers as stewards and promote fishing opportunities.



Grant Highlight: Stream Barrier Assessment

NFWF CONTACTS

John Wright
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202-595-2478

INITIATIVE DETAILS

To learn more, go to
www.nfwf.org/newengland

PARTNERS

The New England Forests and Rivers Fund is supported by funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Eversource’s Partners for New Hampshire’s Fish and Wildlife.

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 1100
Washington, D.C., 20005
202-857-0166

BACKGROUND

Partners for New Hampshire’s Fish and Wildlife is a new partnership between Eversource and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers in New Hampshire. In July 2015, the partnership announced the initial round of awards for grants supporting nine conservation projects in New Hampshire.

GRANT HIGHLIGHT: ASSESSING FISH BARRIER PRIORITY MODIFICATIONS IN SELECTED CONNECTICUT RIVER TRIBUTARIES (MA, NH, VT)

Grantee:	American Rivers
Key Partners:	Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
Project Location:	Tributaries of the Connecticut River in MA, NH and VT
Project Period:	September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2017
Eversource Funds:	\$21,000
NFWF Grant:	\$29,324
Grantee Matching Funds:	\$53,000
Total Project:	\$103,324



Credit: Amy Singler, American Rivers

Identify priorities to remove barriers to fish passage and provide engineering designs for selected projects in Connecticut River tributaries. Conduct landowner outreach and complete preliminary engineering studies to advance up to six barrier removals that will, when implemented, restore access to critical upstream habitat for native eastern brook trout, river herring and Atlantic salmon.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Identify priority fish barrier removal opportunities using the Northeast Connectivity Assessment Tool (NCAT), which provides regional information to allow strategic selection of projects most likely to produce ecological benefits.
- Complete preliminary designs for priority barrier removal projects within the Connecticut River watershed tributaries with a focus in New Hampshire.
- Offer the preliminary designs to owners of fish barriers as an incentive to complete the removal or replacement of the barrier.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Complete preliminary designs for six barrier removal projects that include potential sediment issues, infrastructure risks, species impacts, and a construction cost estimate.
- Reach out to at least 12 landowners to gauge willingness to remove a barrier.
- Facilitate barrier removals that ultimately will restore access to more than 60 miles of upstream habitat for eastern brook trout, river herring, Atlantic salmon and other fish.



Grant Highlight: Culvert Replacement

NFWF CONTACTS

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202-595-2478

INITIATIVE DETAILS

To learn more, go to
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GRANT HIGHLIGHT: RESTORING CONNECTIVITY THROUGH FISH BARRIER MODIFICATIONS ON OLIVERIAN BROOK (NH)

Grantee:Connecticut River Watershed Council
Key Partners:Town of Haverhill, New Hampshire Fish and Game
Project Location:..... Stonecrest Drive, Town of Haverhill, New Hampshire
Project Period:..... August 1, 2015 to August 1, 2017
Eversource Funds:.....\$65,000
Grantee Matching Funds:.....\$65,000
Total Project:\$130,000



Credit: Connecticut River Watershed Council

The Connecticut River Watershed Council will replace an undersized, perched culvert on Oliverian Brook in Haverhill, New Hampshire by providing design, engineering and permitting assistance. Project will open and connect stream and riparian buffer habitat to benefit eastern brook trout and other aquatic species in a sub-watershed identified as high priority by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Provide design, engineering and permitting assistance to replace an undersized and perched culvert that restricts access to upstream habitat for eastern brook trout.
- Recruit three volunteers to assist in implementation.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Increase habitat connectivity for eastern brook trout in a high priority Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture watershed.
- Reconnect and improve .25 miles of habitat for eastern brook trout, as well as increase flood resiliency.