

COVERTS COOPERATORS NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS WORKING FOR WILDLIFE

DURHAM, NH - Are you interested in helping protect New Hampshire's wildlife? Are you an enthusiastic person, involved in your community? Do you manage your own land to help wildlife? Are you concerned about the loss of wildlife habitat in New Hampshire? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the New Hampshire Coverts Project Workshop may be right for you.

The seventeenth annual New Hampshire Coverts Project Workshop will be held September 21-24, 2011 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center in Greenfield, NH. UNH Cooperative Extension is currently accepting applications for the workshop (go to www.nhcoverts.org). Trainees are needed to learn about wildlife habitat and land stewardship. Anyone interested is invited to complete an application.

The name of the project, "Coverts" (pronounced "cover" with a "t"), is from the name for a thicket that provides shelter for wildlife. The term symbolizes the project's goal of enhancing, restoring and conserving habitat for the rich diversity of native wildlife in New Hampshire. Trained volunteers for the Coverts Project, called "Coverts Cooperators," help raise awareness about how sound forest management practices can enhance wildlife habitat.

Each fall for the past sixteen years, 25 selected Coverts Cooperators have joined a team of natural resource professional in a rustic setting in New Hampshire. For three and a half days, participants learn about the latest concepts and issues in wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, land conservation, community conservation planning and effective outreach. Attendees pay a \$50 registration fee, with room, board, and materials provided free by program sponsors.

In return, Coverts Cooperators agree to return to their communities and share what they've learned, and motivate others to become stewards of the state's forests and wildlife habitats. The website includes a sample of Coverts Cooperator projects: <http://extension.unh.edu/FWT/CovertsProjects.htm>

UNH Cooperative Extension coordinates the program in partnership with N.H. Fish and Game, N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. To learn more and download an application, visit www.nhcoverts.org or contact project coordinator Malin Ely Clyde at malin.clyde@unh.edu, or (603) 862-2166.