



# The New Hampshire Coverts Project Volunteers Working for Wildlife

## Our Mission:

To train volunteers to promote wildlife habitat conservation and forest stewardship;

And through this volunteer outreach:

- To enhance, restore, and conserve habitat for the rich diversity of native wildlife in New Hampshire.
- To increase the amount of New Hampshire's public and private land managed with a stewardship ethic.

## Coverts Staff:

**Malin Ely Clyde**, Coverts Project Coordinator, UNH Cooperative Extension

**Matt Tarr**, Assistant Extension Professor, UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialist



## *New Hampshire Coverts Project Program Highlights - 2008*

Prepared by Malin Ely Clyde, UNH Cooperative Extension



## ***NH Coverts Project Program Accomplishments 2008***

- Organized the 14th annual Coverts Training Workshop. Selected (from a pool of 43 applications) and trained 26 new Coverts Cooperators from 23 different communities.



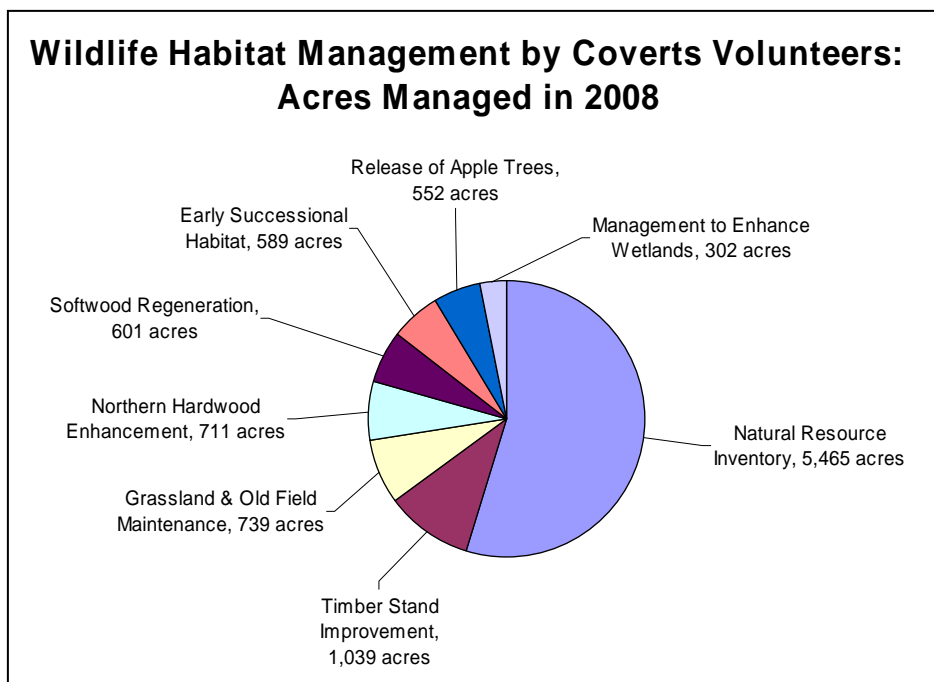
- Created new blog forum for Coverts Cooperators: “Volunteers Working for Wildlife;” posted 20 updates from January – December. Go to: [www.NHCoverts.org](http://www.NHCoverts.org)
- Organized 2 field-based Coverts Alumni Gatherings (Gilford, Sandwich), hosted by Coverts Cooperators, each attended by over 25 Coverts alumni.
- Promoted Coverts participation to more than 80 natural resource-focused educational workshops.
- Worked with new partners to encourage new volunteer opportunities for Coverts Cooperators including those with the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, NH Audubon, and NH Dept. of Forests & Lands.
- Continued to manage email discussion forum (“listserv”) for 200 participating Coverts Cooperators and natural resource professionals.
- Published two editions of *Making Tracks* newsletter, with submissions by over 50 volunteers.

## ***NH Coverts Project - Looking Ahead to 2009***

- Continue to post to and experiment with “Volunteers Working for Wildlife” blog.
- Develop new continuing education workshops on stewardship of critical habitats, including Appalachian oak-pine forests, Shrublands, Lowland spruce-fir forests, and Peatlands.
- Train Coverts volunteers in WAP Outreach Program: “Critical Wildlife Habitats in New Hampshire,” beginning with pilot phase in 1-2 counties.
- Remodel UNHCE Wildlife Program website, including video clips of habitat management.
- Train new class of 25 volunteers at 2009 Coverts Workshop scheduled for Sept. 9-12 in Hancock, NH.

## Coverts Volunteer Service - 2008

- **259 active volunteers** are currently working in 125 different NH communities.
- In 2008, Coverts Cooperators contributed **14,226 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, **valued at over \$277,000**.
- Coverts volunteers currently own or manage over 105,000 acres in NH.
- Almost 40% of Coverts volunteers serve on their town's Conservation Commission.
- Coverts volunteers manage thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife each year (see chart at right).
- Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 18,000 acres** in New Hampshire in 2008.
- Coverts volunteers **reached out to over 50,000 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation.



## Coverts Volunteer Service Since 1999 - Cumulative Impacts -

- Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **72,000 hours of service** on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the State of New Hampshire. This service has an estimated **value of \$1.3 million** (rate adjusted by year, using [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).
- Since 1999, volunteers have managed thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife habitat:
  - **7,800 acres of grasslands** & old fields have been kept open
  - **7,900 acres of early successional habitat** have been created or maintained
  - **7,100 acres managed to enhance softwood habitats** for snowshoe hare, deer, etc.
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have reached over **250,000 people** through their outreach efforts
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have worked to permanently conserve over **200,000 acres** of land.

# *New Hampshire Coverts Cooperators In Their Own Words:*

## **Worthwhile Workshop**

*“The most important thing I learned at the Coverts Workshop was the amount of help and support available through various local, state, and federal agencies. Also, the inter-relationships [among] various habitats and wildlife.”*

- 2008 Coverts Workshop Participant



## **Working with Youth**

*“A few years ago I pitched the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program to our local grade school facilities managers to address a stream bank stabilization problem. The project wound its way through the application, approval, design, permitting, etc... process and construction finally was completed this fall. Next spring students will be working on planting a riparian buffer.”*

- Coverts Volunteer, 2008

## **Doing Effective Outreach**

*“This year, I helped organize and participate in our regional Land Summit Workshop put on by [our local land trust]... I was on a panel that promoted putting property into a conservation easement by having four of us talk from personal experience. [Recently], I met a woman who had pulled me aside after the presentation to talk and she had just finished putting her land in a conservation easement and wanted to thank me. A great feeling!”*

-Coverts Volunteer, 2008



## **Promoting Sound Land Stewardship**

*“I was pleased to have given two tours to state leaders this year...to show that New Hampshire private landowners are good land stewards and we, the landowners and the state, need to work together to be sure we maintain a balance that is so important to all of us.”*

- Coverts Volunteer