

# NEW HAMPSHIRE COVERTS COOPERATORS

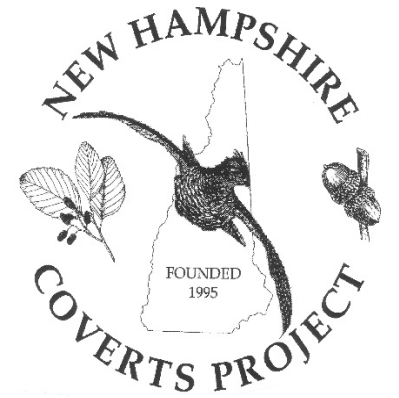
## In Their Own Words



Extension

# New Hampshire Coverts Project

## 2017 Program Highlights



### Habitat Management

*"I've spent the last 4 months developing a forest management plan for our 34 acres [in Eaton]. Together with the knowledge I gained at the [NH Coverts Project workshop] as well as help from a variety of foresters, we have set up a plan to stagger our forestry and begin encouraging different-aged patches. Additionally, I've been able to help shed light on neighbors' properties as they try to make decisions about cutting/clearing and managing sections of their own forests."* - Coverts Volunteer, 2017



### Supporting Conservation

*"As a member of the Conservation Commission, I was able to participate in the completion of a three year land acquisition project which permanently conserves 580 acres [...] and connects the land to a larger body of conserved land. This land will be open for recreational, agricultural and educational opportunities and will continue to provide vital habitat for many species of wildlife and flora."* - Coverts Volunteer, 2017



### Engaging the Community

*"I have thoroughly enjoyed putting much of what I have learned as a UNH Extension Volunteer into practice in my community through the Conservation Commission. My gained knowledge has opened up a whole new level of community outreach and passion for sharing knowledge with others. It has also been a blessing to have fellowship and contacts to fall back on when I need help, and to give me encouragement when I'm moving forward on my own."* - Coverts Volunteer, 2017



## 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 UNH Cooperative Extension

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# 2017

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

In 2017, Coverts Cooperators contributed **21,915 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, valued at over **\$545,000**. Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 4,794 acres** of land in their communities, and **reached out to over 12,300 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation in 2017.

### SPEAKING FOR WILDLIFE

The *Speaking for Wildlife* program involved over 190 Coverts Cooperators and other trained volunteers in conducting wildlife-themed presentations and leading field walks on conservation lands statewide. 2017 impacts from this group of volunteers include:

- Volunteers delivered **31** public talks reaching **638** people
- Volunteers led **20** field walks, with over **180** participants

Since the development of the program in 2010, *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteers have delivered over **270 presentations** and **115 field walks** reaching over **7,500 people** throughout New Hampshire.

### LAND MANAGEMENT

Coverts volunteers currently own or manage **over 150,000 acres** in New Hampshire and manage thousands of acres for wildlife each year.

#### Coverts Habitat Management in 2017

Resource Inventory	<b>3,582</b> acres
Hardwood Management	<b>2,596</b> acres
Wetland Enhancement	<b>980</b> acres
Grasslands/Old Field Management	<b>860</b> acres
Timber Stand Improvement	<b>586</b> acres
Early Successional Management	<b>365</b> acres
Softwood Management	<b>271</b> acres

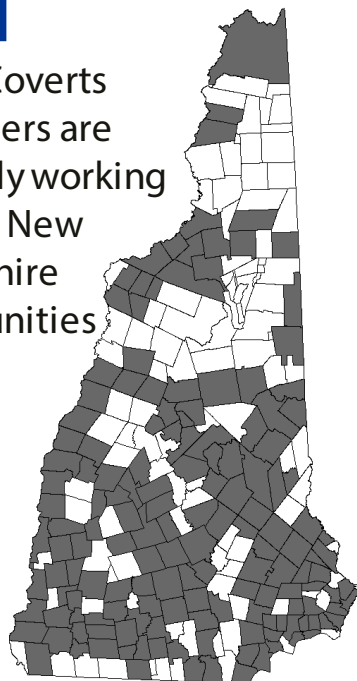
### The acres add up.

Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have managed thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife habitat:

<b>11,009</b> acres of early successional habitat have been created or maintained	<b>15,611</b> acres of grasslands & old fields have been kept open	<b>9,136</b> acres managed to enhance softwood habitats for a variety of wildlife
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## 421

active Coverts volunteers are currently working in 175+ New Hampshire communities



### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS 1999-2017

Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **310,000 hours** of service on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the state of New Hampshire. This has an estimated value of over **\$6.6 million**. Coverts Cooperators have reached over **465,000 people** through outreach efforts, and worked to permanently conserve **308,000 acres** of land.



## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2017

- Organized the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 24 new Coverts Cooperators from 21 different New Hampshire communities.
- Sent 22 e-mail newsletter updates that included volunteer opportunities, workshops and trainings, and 20 different news items posted to the Coverts Blog ([extension.unh.edu/ArticleCategories/Coverts](http://extension.unh.edu/ArticleCategories/Coverts)).
- Expanded the *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteer speakers bureau program, training 43 volunteers. In total, 51 talks and walks held statewide reached over 800 people. A new talk – *Reptiles & Amphibians: Warming Up to New Hampshire's Cold-blooded Natives* – was developed and made available to volunteers.
- Hosted several continuing education opportunities designed for Coverts volunteers, including a wildlife tracking workshop and nature journaling workshop.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of trainings and volunteer opportunities statewide, including through *The Stewardship Network: New England*.



### LOOKING AHEAD to 2018

- Continue to encourage and train Coverts volunteers to participate in the *Speaking for Wildlife* program, giving more talks and leading more walks on conservation land in New Hampshire.
- Train up to 25 new volunteers at the 2018 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for May 2-5 in Greenfield, NH.
- Continue to improve volunteer and continuing education opportunities for Coverts volunteers, including through *The Stewardship Network: New England*.