

## New Hampshire Coverts Project

### 2018 Program Highlights



**Volunteers Working for Wildlife**

#### Habitat Management

*"The Coverts training gave me the background and tools I needed to feel prepared when developing my timber management plan with my forester. We were able to take advantage of resources to enhance the management plan with a focus on developing wildlife habitat."*

#### Supporting Conservation

*"Recently we hosted a number of folks from a workshop sponsored by [the local conservation district]. Seeing people enjoying our land as much as we do was so rewarding. One person felt they did not have enough land to protect but as we talked, he said it butted up to a rare wetland. I was able to encourage him to talk to [a local land trust] about putting an easement on it. Helping people save land like that is so cool."*

#### Engaging the Community

*"Over the past two years we have done work on our land to create early successional habitat. This past spring, we had noticeably more male woodcock displaying and were able to share the experience with more people who are in a position to do or influence habitat work on other land. We hope that we can have an impact."*



#### 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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# 2018

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

In 2018, Coverts Cooperators contributed **24,934 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, valued at over **\$636,000**. Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 9,227 acres** of land in their communities, and **reached out to over 16,850 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation in 2018.

## SPEAKING FOR WILDLIFE

The *Speaking for Wildlife* program involves over 200 Coverts Cooperators and other trained volunteers in conducting wildlife-themed presentations and leading field walks on conservation lands statewide. 2018 impacts from this group of volunteers include:

- Volunteers delivered **36** public talks reaching **761** people
- Volunteers led **16** field walks, with over **290** participants

Since the development of the program in 2010, *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteers have delivered over **315 presentations** and **135 field walks** reaching over **8,580 people** throughout New Hampshire.

## LAND MANAGEMENT

Coverts volunteers currently own or manage **over 142,000 acres** in New Hampshire and manage thousands of acres for wildlife each year:

### Coverts Habitat Management in 2018

Resource Inventory	<b>13,887</b> acres
Wetland Enhancement	<b>1,881</b> acres
Grasslands/Old Field Management	<b>1,407</b> acres
Timber Stand Improvement	<b>994</b> acres
Hardwood Management	<b>650</b> acres
Early Successional Management	<b>502</b> acres
Softwood Management	<b>284</b> acres

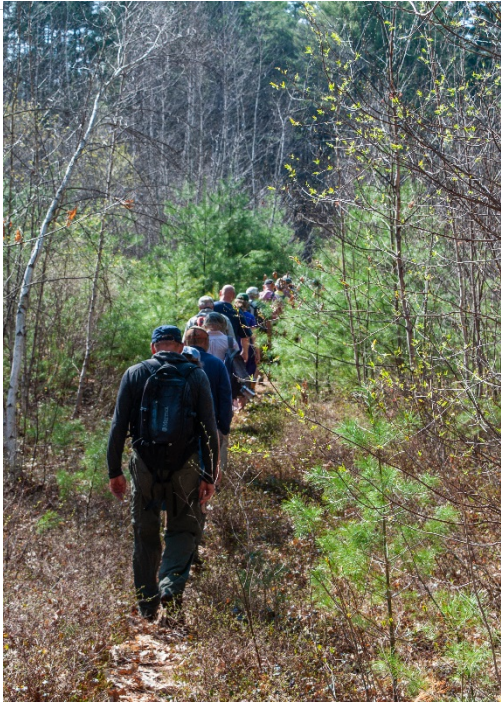
## The acres add up.

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

<b>11,511</b> acres of early successional habitat have been created or maintained	<b>17,018</b> acres of grasslands & old fields have been kept open	<b>9,420</b> acres managed to enhance softwood habitats for a variety of wildlife
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**436**

active Coverts volunteers are currently working in 155+ New Hampshire communities



## CUMULATIVE IMPACTS 1999-2018

Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **334,000 hours** of service on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the state of New Hampshire. This has an estimated value of over **\$7.2 million**. Coverts Cooperators have reached over **481,000 people** through outreach efforts, and worked to permanently conserve **317,000 acres** of land.



## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2018

- Organized the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 22 new Coverts Cooperators from 21 different New Hampshire communities.
- Sent 19 e-mail newsletter updates that included volunteer opportunities, workshops and trainings, and news items posted to the Coverts Blog.
- Developed a new project website, making it easier for Coverts volunteers to identify and access resources, news, and events that might be of interest to them.
- Expanded the *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteer speakers bureau program, training 11 volunteers. In total, 52 talks and walks held statewide reached over 1,000 people. A new talk – *Reptiles & Amphibians: Warming Up to New Hampshire's Cold-blooded Natives* – was officially launched as part of the program.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of trainings and volunteer opportunities statewide, including through *Nature Groupie*.



## LOOKING AHEAD to 2019

- Train up to 25 new volunteers at the 2018 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for May 15-18 in Greenfield, NH.
- Continue to improve volunteer and continuing education opportunities for Coverts volunteers, including through *Nature Groupie*.
- 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.
- Plan and implement continuing education opportunities specifically for NH Coverts Project volunteers.