



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:

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Vernal Pools Workshop, Sandown, April 2010

New Hampshire Coverts Project Program Highlights - 2010

Prepared by Malin Ely Clyde, UNH Cooperative Extension

Program Accomplishments 2010

- Organized the 16th annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 24 new Coverts Cooperators from 21 different communities.
- Expanded blog website for Coverts Cooperators. Posted 29 (digest) updates containing hundreds of news items:
http://extension.unh.edu/blogs/volunteers_working_for_wildlife/



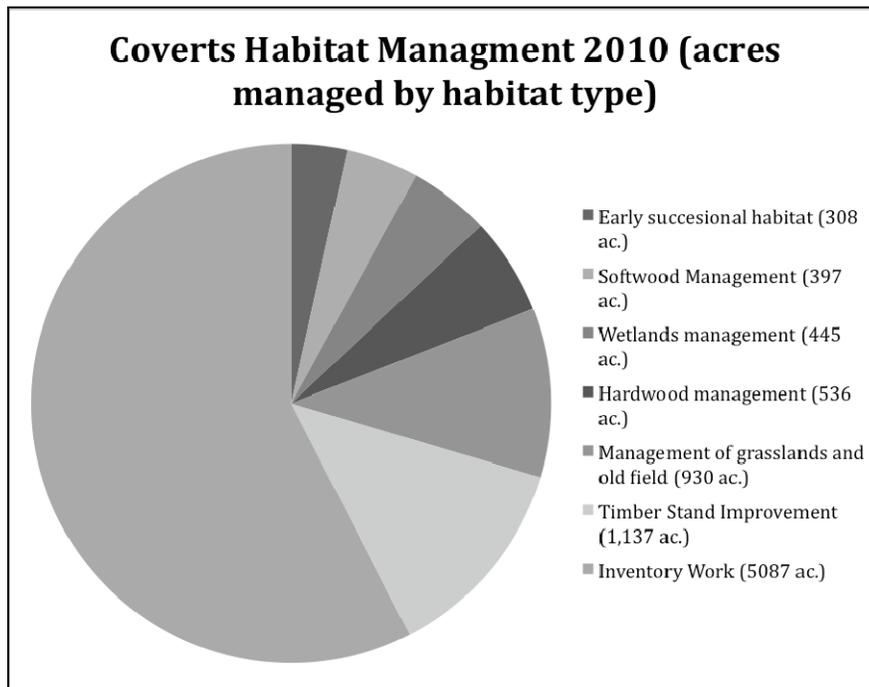
- Organized 2 field-based Coverts Alumni Gatherings (Derry, Shelburne), hosted by Coverts Cooperators and attended by Coverts alumni.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of natural resource-focused educational workshops and volunteer opportunities statewide.
- Successfully sought \$35,000 of new private funding to expand the “Speaking for Wildlife” volunteer speakers bureau program. Volunteers delivered 40+ new presentations to Upper Valley community groups. Trained 16 new Coverts volunteers from new regions of New Hampshire.
- Completed final 4 brochures in 12-part Habitat Stewardship Brochure series (partially funded with private grant funds), for Coverts Cooperators to use doing wildlife outreach in their communities.

Looking Ahead to 2011

- Expand “Speaking for Wildlife” statewide, train new volunteers and create speaker’s kits for all ten county Extension offices. Train county staff in program administration.
- Train 25 new volunteers at 2011 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for September in Greenfield, NH.
- Expand land stewardship information on UNHCE wildlife website to include content from new Habitat Stewardship Brochures (northern hardwood forests, headwater streams, hemlock-hardwood-pine forests, lakes & ponds)
- Continue to improve *Volunteers Working for Wildlife* (the Coverts blog website) to offer more news, workshops, volunteer opportunities, and publication highlights. Re-post other groups’ announcements.

Volunteer Service - 2010

- **297 active Coverts volunteers** are currently working in 130+ different NH communities.
- In 2010, Coverts Cooperators contributed **44,328 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, **valued at over \$900,000**.
- Coverts volunteers currently own or manage over 100,000 acres in NH.
- Coverts volunteers manage thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife each year (see chart).
- Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 32,000 acres** in New Hampshire in 2010.
- Coverts volunteers **reached out to over 36,000 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 **116,000 hours of service** on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the State of New Hampshire. This service has an estimated **value of \$2.4 million** (rate adjusted by year, using www.independentsector.org).
- Since 1999, volunteers have managed thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife habitat:
 - **8,900 acres of grasslands & old fields** have been kept open
 - **8,300 acres of early successional habitat** have been created or maintained
 - **7,600 acres managed to enhance softwood habitats** for snowshoe hare, deer, etc.
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have reached over **316,000 people** through their outreach efforts
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have worked to permanently conserve over **242,000 acres** of land.

New Hampshire Coverts Cooperators: In Their Own Words

Creating New Habitat

“Having seen a spectacular increase in animals using our early successional habitat plots, we will continue to maintain them on a periodic basis and likely create new patch cuts. I am always on the lookout for properties in my community that deserve to be conserved and willing to find ways to see that they are.”

-Coverts Volunteer, 2010



Stewarding Town Lands

“For our planned timber harvest this winter, in lieu of revenue we will be having the forester further open up some of the fields we have been maintaining in our town conservation properties. We will use this to expand the size of the fields, create early-successional habitat, and soften the edges to the fields.” - Coverts Volunteer, 2010

Conserving New Properties

“Worked with UNH Cooperative Extension and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to conserve and purchase 74 acres of open space for our town. The property abutted an existing town forest and abuts about 1/2 mile of the Exeter River.”

- Coverts Volunteer, 2010



Feedback from Volunteers

“Keep up the excellent work of the Coverts program. It is invaluable and provides critically important continuous learning to enable conservation of our natural resources.”

-Coverts Volunteer, 2010