

New Hampshire Coverts Cooperators: In Their Own Words

Creating New Habitat

"Continuing to clear the timber pasture/harvest firewood with oxen power. We get in about an hour of work every weekday morning, and about 10 hours each weekend. The commercial logging operation is opening up new woods trails for us to use. Long term, we hope to expand the firewood harvesting to other parts of the property. I'm also excited to be serving on the board of our local land trust."

-Coverts Volunteer, 2011



Forging New Conservation Partnerships

"We want to do more with the partnership of wildlife organizations and the farm organizations. This should make a stronger alliance for both groups, as the trend toward more local food and energy production continues.."

- Coverts Volunteer, 2011

Raising Public Awareness

"No matter where I may be living, I try to educate people that own the land about what they could do to better manage their land for wildlife. Also, because I work for a landscaping company, I am always educating people about what to plant for wildlife benefit or what herbicides, pesticides, etc. are harmful to wildlife, etc. It is an ongoing job to educate the public and I am in a good position to do so."

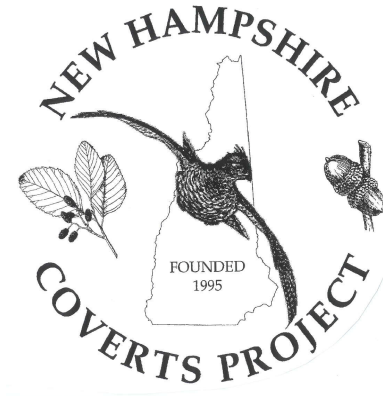
- Coverts Volunteer, 2011



High Impact Volunteers

"I am most proud of the work that was performed on our property under a WHIP grant. We entered into a formal agreement with the neighbors on either side of us to manage their property for the WHIP grant and then clear-cut three one-acre openings for early successional habitat. In addition, I have given five 'Speaking for Wildlife' talks in the past year."

-Coverts Volunteer, 2011



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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New Hampshire Coverts Project Program Highlights - 2011

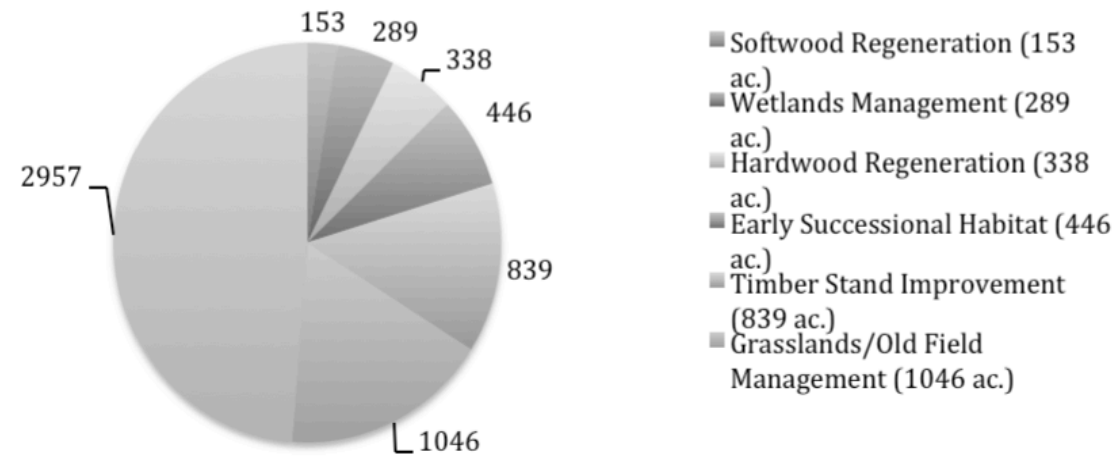
Prepared by Malin Ely Clyde, UNH Cooperative Extension



Volunteer Service - 2011

- **315 active Coverts volunteers** are currently working in 130+ different NH communities.
- In 2011, Coverts Cooperators contributed **40,186 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, **valued at over \$850,000**.
- Coverts volunteers currently own or manage over 140,000 acres in NH.
- Coverts volunteers manage thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife each year (see chart).
- Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 10,000 acres** in New Hampshire in 2011.
- Coverts volunteers **reached out to over 34,000 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation.

Coverts Habitat Management 2011 (acres managed by habitat type)



Coverts Volunteer Service Since 1999 - Cumulative Impacts -

- Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **166,000 hours of service** on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the State of New Hampshire. This service has an estimated **value of \$3.2 million** (rate adjusted by year, using www.independentsector.org).
- Since 1999, volunteers have managed thousands of acres of land specifically for wildlife habitat:
 - **10,490 acres of grasslands & old fields** have been kept open
 - **8,700 acres of early successional habitat** have been created or maintained
 - **7,756 acres managed to enhance softwood habitats** for snowshoe hare, deer, etc.
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have reached over **358,000 people** through outreach efforts
- Since 1999, Coverts volunteers have worked to permanently conserve over **255,000 acres** of land.

Program Accomplishments 2011

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- Organized the 17th annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 25 new Coverts Cooperators from 23 different communities.
- Posted over 190 different updates to the Coverts Blog, also emailing volunteers with new information. Blog: http://extension.unh.edu/blogs/volunteers_working_for_wildlife/
- Organized 1 special field-based Coverts Alumni Gathering (Sullivan, NH), hosted by Coverts Cooperators and attended by Coverts alumni.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of natural resource-focused educational workshops and volunteer opportunities statewide.
- Expanded the "Speaking for Wildlife" volunteer speakers bureau program. Trained 61 new volunteers who delivered over 25 talks and led 18 field trips statewide, reaching almost 1,000 people.
- Begun private fundraising campaign for new edition of Habitat Stewardship Brochure Series.
- Involved Coverts volunteers in "Taking Action for Wildlife" community and landowner outreach efforts.



Looking Ahead to 2011



- Assist Speaking for Wildlife volunteers in giving more talks and leading more walks
- Train 25 new volunteers at 2012 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for early October in Greenfield, NH.
- Plan large-scale Coverts alumni event in Loudon, August 2012.
- Convene Coverts Advisory Committee at Farm & Forest Expo 2012
- Expand outreach through social media of Twitter and Facebook
- Continue to involve Coverts volunteers in "Taking Action for Wildlife" initiative with NH Fish and Game.