

# NEW HAMPSHIRE COVERTS COOPERATORS

## *In Their Own Words*



### Stewardship Ethic

*"I continue to work on my stewardship plan on my land. I work to create habitat for wildlife by clearing areas to create early successional habitat; I have planted high bush cranberry, raspberry and grapes. [...] The experience and knowledge I received from the Coverts program has been a great help in understanding the balance that needs to be held in woodlands."* - Coverts Volunteer, 2014



### Community Conservation

*"As Conservation Commission chair, I am working on a number of land acquisitions as well as serving on committees of [the local land trust]. I'm also working with the county forester, NHFG, and UNH Extension staff to develop a forestry and wildlife management plan for one of our 160 acre town conservation lands. Much of this work was motivated by training and exposure to the Coverts program."* - Coverts Volunteer, 2014



### Habitat Management

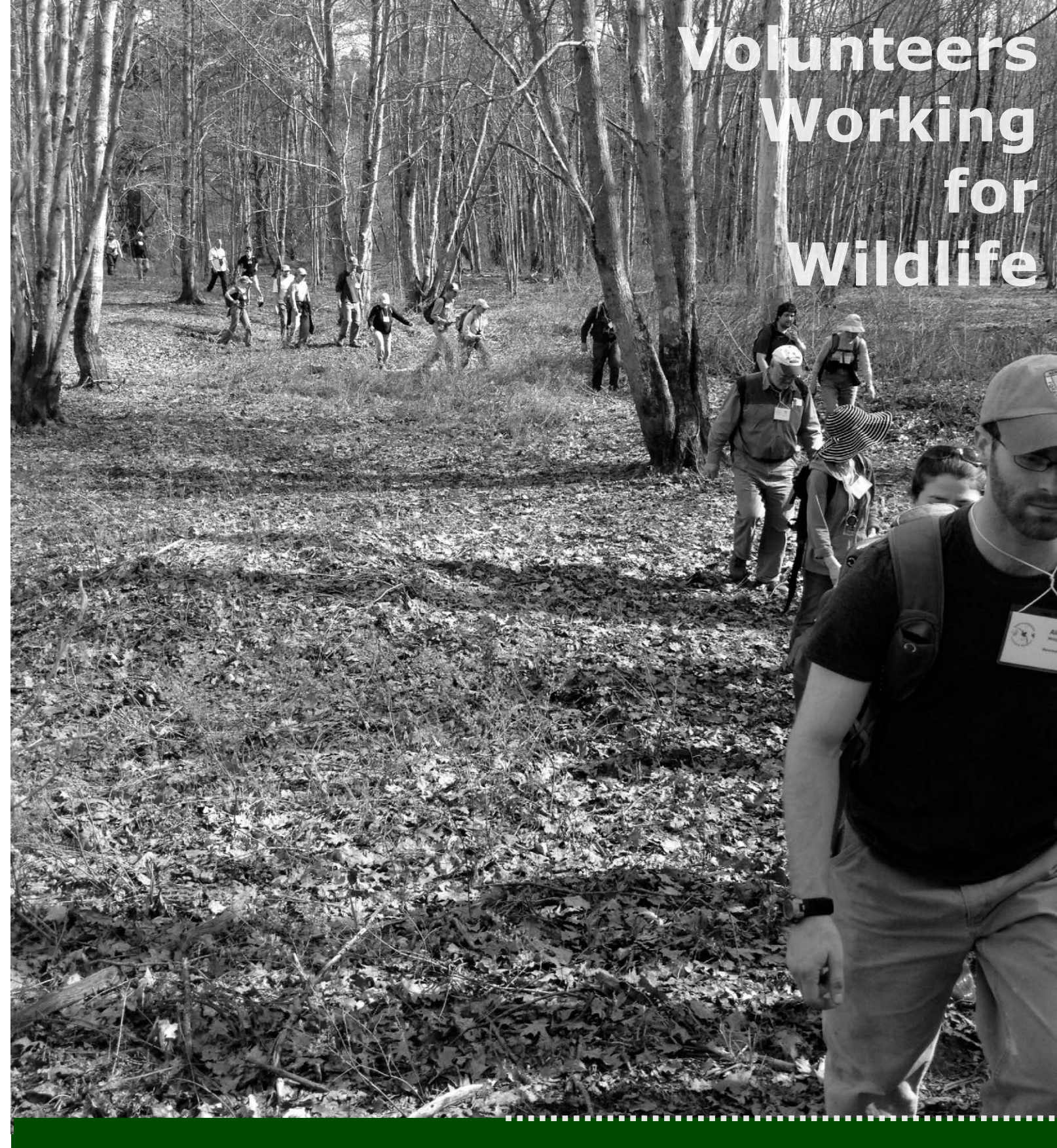
*"I had a timber cut done on my property last year. It will improve the quality of the timber stand, and it is making a noticeable difference in the amount of wildlife activity."* - Coverts Volunteer, 2014



### Supporting Conservation, Engaging Community

*"The Speaking for Wildlife [A Garden for Wildlife: Natural Landscaping for a Better Backyard] presentation for the New London Garden Club with 68 attendees was a highlight. An engaged and curious audience made all the difference! Judging from the comments, quite a few went away with a greater appreciation for wildlife habitat. Given that these folks have their hands in the dirt by choice and want to sustain ecosystems, it was time and energy well spent."* - Coverts Volunteer, 2014

# 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.

### 2014 Coverts Staff UNH Cooperative Extension

**Haley Andreozzi**, Coordinator  
**Matt Tarr**, Wildlife Specialist  
**Malin Clyde**, Community  
Volunteer Development Specialist



## New Hampshire Coverts Project 2014 Program Highlights

# 2014

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

In 2014, Coverts Cooperators contributed **25,600 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, valued at over **\$580,000**. Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 11,000 acres** of land, and **reached out to over 20,000 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation in 2014.

### SPEAKING FOR WILDLIFE

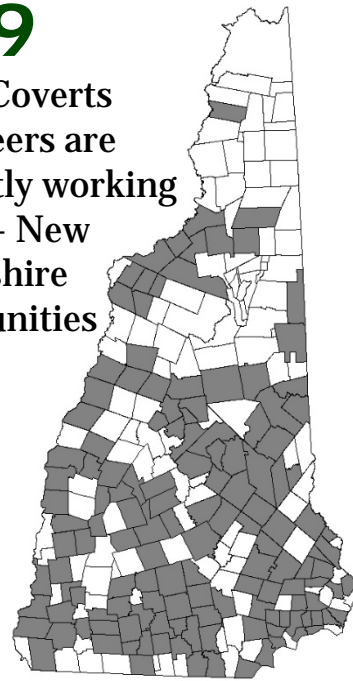
The *Speaking for Wildlife* program involved over 140 Coverts Cooperators (and other interested volunteers) in conducting wildlife-themed presentations and leading nature walks on conservation lands statewide. 2014 impacts from this group of volunteers include:

- Volunteers delivered **46** public talks reaching **760** people
- Volunteers led **14** field walks, with over **97** participants

Since the development of the program in 2010, *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteers have delivered over **180 presentations** and **70 field walks** reaching over **4,500 people** throughout New Hampshire.

# 369

active Coverts volunteers are currently working in 150+ New Hampshire communities



## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2014

- Organized the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 22 new Coverts Cooperators from 21 different communities.
- Posted over 52 different news items to the Coverts Blog, included in the 24 email updates sent to volunteers. Blog at: <http://extension.unh.edu/Article-Categories/Coverts>
- Expanded the *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteer speakers bureau program, training 23 new volunteers. In total, 46 talks and 14 walks held statewide reached over 850 people.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of volunteer opportunities statewide, including through *The Stewardship Network: New England*.



## LAND MANAGEMENT

Coverts volunteers currently own or manage over **128,000 acres** in New Hampshire and manage thousands of acres for wildlife each year:

### Coverts Habitat Management in 2014

Resource Inventory	<b>1,901</b> acres
Grasslands/Old Fields Mgmt.	<b>888</b> acres
Timber Stand Improvement	<b>491</b> acres
Softwood Enhancement	<b>348</b> acres
Wetland Enhancement	<b>330</b> acres
Early Successional Management	<b>295</b> acres
Hardwood Management	<b>276</b> acres

### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS 1999-2014

Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **242,146 hours** of service on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the state of New Hampshire. This has an estimated value of **\$5 million**. Coverts cooperators have reached over **421,937 people** through outreach efforts, and worked to permanently conserve **292,365 acres** of land since 1999.



## LOOKING AHEAD to 2015

- 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 25 new volunteers at the 2015 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for May 6-9 in Greenfield, NH.
- Convene the Coverts Advisory Committee in early 2015, with four new members from the most recent 2014 class added to the roster of advisors.
- Continue to improve volunteer and continuing education opportunities for Coverts volunteers through *The Stewardship Network: New England*.

### The acres add up.

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

# 13,192

acres of grasslands & old fields have been kept open

# 9,742

acres of early successional habitat have been created or maintained

# 8,399

acres managed to enhance softwood habitats for a variety of wildlife