

NEW HAMPSHIRE COVERTS COOPERATORS

In Their Own Words



Stewardship Ethic

"I continue to be involved in our town's Land Stewardship Committee, where we focus on caring for town-owned lands and try to connect more people to our conserved properties. We've held invasive plant workdays on the [town forest] and are working on projects to get more volunteers to help with stewardship efforts, such as easement monitoring." - Coverts Volunteer, 2015



Community Conservation

"The high point of this year was a project to conserve the almost 200 acres on the peak of one of our [local] mountaintops. [...] I worked with the town conservation commission to help fund the project, with a regional conservation organization to purchase in fee, and within the community by writing articles and fundraising." - Coverts Volunteer, 2015



Habitat Management

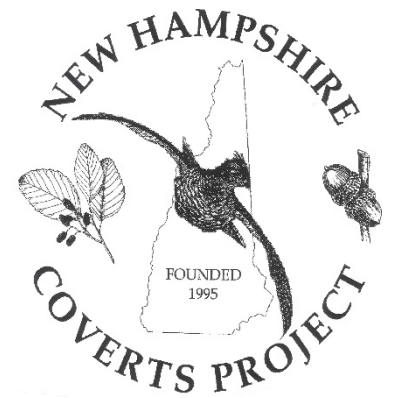
"Because of the Coverts program, I was able to work with my county forester and our privately hired forester and achieve the results that were best for my woodlot. We opened up a new hayfield after stumping a clear cut section of the woodlot. [...] This new field was contiguous with our established hayfield but the additional portion was enough to attract two pair of Bobolinks this past spring." - Coverts Volunteer, 2015



Supporting Conservation, Engaging Community

"I led a nature walk on my 33-acre parcel. We saw evidence (sign) of wildlife and I pointed out areas of nesting and foraging. We talked about tree species, the need for diversity in the forest and the types of wildlife seen on the land - deer, turkey, red fox, barred owls, coyote, ruffed grouse, bobcat, moose, three varieties of woodpeckers." - Coverts Volunteer, 2015

New Hampshire Coverts Project 2015 Program Highlights



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

Haley Andreozzi, Coordinator
Matt Tarr, Wildlife Specialist
Malin Clyde, Volunteer Specialist
Karen Bennett, Extension Forester

2015

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

In 2015, Coverts Cooperators contributed **23,040 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, valued at over **\$531,500**. Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 6,300 acres** of land in their communities, and **reached out to over 15,500 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation in 2015.

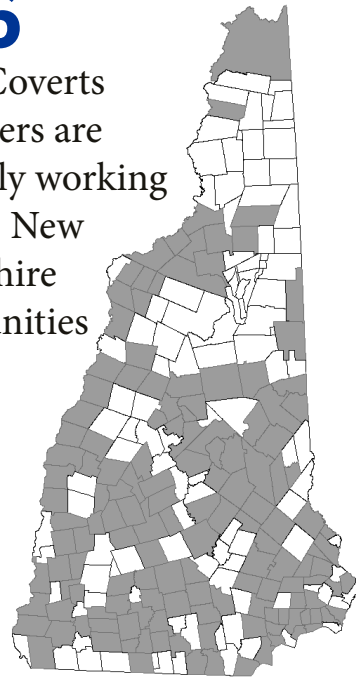
SPEAKING FOR WILDLIFE

The *Speaking for Wildlife* program involved over 168 Coverts Cooperators and other interested volunteers in conducting wildlife-themed presentations and leading nature walks on conservation lands statewide. 2015 impacts from this group of volunteers include:

- Volunteers delivered **30** public talks reaching **430** people
- Volunteers led **10** field walks, with over **120** participants

Since the development of the program in 2010, *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteers have delivered over **210 presentations** and **84 field walks** reaching over **5,750 people** throughout New Hampshire.

386 active Coverts volunteers are currently working in 165+ New Hampshire communities



CUMULATIVE IMPACTS 1999-2015

Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **265,186 hours** of service on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the state of New Hampshire. This has an estimated value of over **\$5.5 million**. Coverts Cooperators have reached over **437,486 people** through outreach efforts, and worked to permanently conserve **298,668 acres** of land since 1999.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2015

- Organized the 21st annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 23 new Coverts Cooperators from 20 different communities.
- Sent 31 e-mail newsletter updates that included volunteer opportunities, workshops and trainings, and 27 different news items posted to the Coverts Blog (extension.unh.edu/Article_Categories/Coverts).
- Expanded the *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteer speakers bureau program, training 29 new volunteers. In total, 40 talks and walks held statewide reached over 550 people.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of volunteer opportunities statewide, including through *The Stewardship Network: New England*.



LOOKING AHEAD to 2016

- 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, and develop one new presentation focused on wildlife and habitats in New Hampshire.
- Train up to 25 new volunteers at the 2016 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for May 4-7 in Greenfield, NH.
- Organize field days for Coverts volunteers at Coverts-owned properties or other places of interest, beginning with a wildlife tracking workshop scheduled for February 2016, exclusively for Coverts Cooperators.
- Continue to improve volunteer and continuing education opportunities for Coverts volunteers through *The Stewardship Network: New England*.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Coverts volunteers currently own or manage over **132,000 acres** in New Hampshire and manage thousands of acres for wildlife each year:

Coverts Habitat Management in 2015

Resource Inventory	3,300 acres
Grasslands/Old Fields Mgmt.	700 acres
Timber Stand Improvement	677 acres
Wetland Enhancement	670 acres
Hardwood Enhancement	537 acres
Early Successional Management	359 acres
Softwood Management	138 acres

The acres add up.

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

13,892

acres of grasslands & old fields have been kept open

10,101

acres of early successional habitat have been created or maintained

8,537

acres managed to enhance softwood habitats for a variety of wildlife