

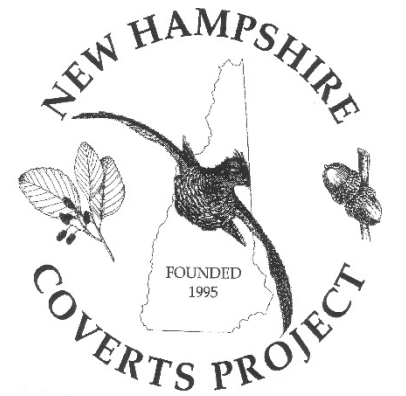
NEW HAMPSHIRE COVERTS COOPERATORS

In Their Own Words



Extension

New Hampshire Coverts Project 2019 Program Highlights



Habitat Management

"We have been managing our land for early-successional habitat. This involves mowing some fields and edges, fighting invasives, hosting opportunities for viewing the skydance of the woodcock, and learning about species that require regenerating habitat for some aspect of their life cycle. Since our harvest, we are seeing a significant increase in the diversity of species using our property and in their numbers."

Supporting Conservation

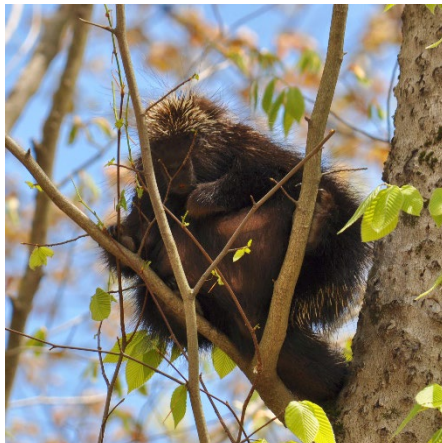
"I am looking forward to completing my goal of enhancing a parcel of town-owned land this year. The project included developing a land management plan and then implementing it. The plan included a selective logging operation with wildlife clearings, creating a trail system with kiosks and maps, installing a parking area, and building two bridges. The goal is to maximize the value of this town-owned asset for the benefit of residents for recreation, wildlife, and the environment."

Engaging the Community

"Since participating in my Coverts training this year, my knowledge base has increased significantly. I now feel empowered to speak up in groups of various sizes and functions to educate and advocate for forests and wildlife. This has taken shape during 1-on-1 conversations, in small groups at volunteer meetings, and hosting events at my property. The ripple effects are palpable in all facets of my life."



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
- Emma Tutein**, Natural Resources Specialist
- Karen Bennett**, Extension Forester
- Matt Tarr**, Wildlife Specialist
- Malin Clyde**, Volunteer Specialist

The New Hampshire Coverts Project is sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension and New Hampshire Fish & Game. The program also receives support from the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the NH Charitable Foundation, the Davis Environmental Foundation, and the Quality Deer Management Association. The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. University of New Hampshire, U.S. Department of Agriculture, NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands, NH Fish and Game, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and N.H. counties cooperating.



2019

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

In 2019, Coverts Cooperators contributed **21,602 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, valued at over **\$556,400**. Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 8,409 acres** of land in their communities, and **reached out to over 15,290 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation in 2019.

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. 2019 impacts from this group of volunteers include:

- Volunteers delivered **29** public talks reaching **462** people
- Volunteers led **14** field walks, with over **183** participants

Since the development of the program in 2010, *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteers have delivered over **340 presentations** and **145 field walks** reaching over **9,225 people** throughout New Hampshire.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Coverts volunteers currently own or manage **over 145,000 acres** in New Hampshire and manage thousands of acres for wildlife each year:

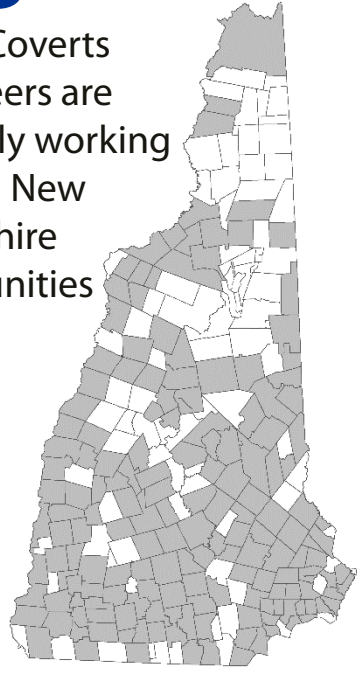
Coverts Habitat Management in 2019	Resource Inventory	6,209 acres
	Timber Stand Improvement	2,731 acres
	Grasslands/Old Field Management	977 acres
	Hardwood Management	841 acres
	Wetlands Enhancement	555 acres
	Early Successional Management	368 acres
	Softwood Management	151 acres

The acres add up.

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

11,879 acres of early successional habitat have been created or maintained	17,995 acres of grasslands & old fields have been kept open	9,571 acres managed to enhance softwood habitats for a variety of wildlife
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453 active Coverts volunteers are currently working in 165+ New Hampshire communities



CUMULATIVE IMPACTS 1999-2019

Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **356,000 hours** of service on behalf of wildlife and stewardship to the state of New Hampshire. This has an estimated value of over **\$7.8 million**. Coverts Cooperators have reached over **497,000 people** through outreach efforts, and worked to permanently conserve **325,000 acres** of land.



PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2019

- Organized the 25th annual Coverts Training Workshop in Greenfield, NH. Trained 24 new Coverts Cooperators from 23 different New Hampshire communities.
- Sent 13 e-mail newsletter updates that included volunteer opportunities, workshops and trainings, and news items posted to the NH Coverts Project website and blog.
- Expanded the *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteer speakers bureau program, training 11 new volunteers – many who are also Coverts Cooperators. In total, 43 talks and walks held statewide reached over 645 people.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of trainings and volunteer opportunities statewide, including through *Nature Groupie*.



LOOKING AHEAD to 2020

- Train up to 25 new volunteers at the 2020 Coverts Workshop, scheduled for May 13-16 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 wildlife and natural resources themed presentations in communities around New Hampshire.
- Plan and implement continuing education opportunities specifically for NH Coverts Project volunteers.