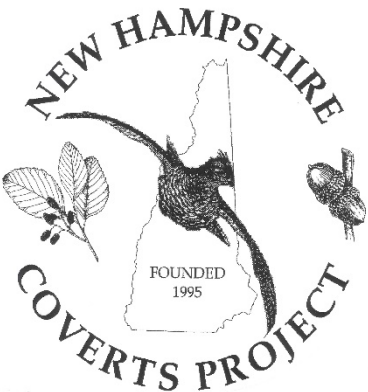


NEW HAMPSHIRE COVERTS COOPERATORS

In Their Own Words



Extension



New Hampshire Coverts Project

2020 Program Highlights



Habitat Management

"A highlight of my efforts as a Coverts Cooperator this year was finding an expanding stand of Japanese knotweed on a neighbor's property, talking with them about how to defeat its spread, and then see the neighbor actually tackle it. It had the potential for major spread in the neighborhood and he took it seriously and it is almost eradicated. This is a neighbor who never thought about invasive plants and yet was open to learn, and now is a big advocate and learning about invasive plants himself."



Engaging the Community

"I've started leading walks for [my local land trust] and use much of the knowledge that I've acquired in this program to educate the attendees. My favorite though was the Full Moon snowshoe that I led back in January."



Supporting Conservation

"As the Brentwood Conservation Commission chair last fall and winter, I was privileged to be instrumental in conserving the former NH Fish and Game farm on South Road in Brentwood. [...] With the easement under contract, Meadow's Mirth Farm has begun operations and is experiencing a terrific first year of producing quality local food for the community."

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
Steve Roberge, Extension Forester
Matt Tarr, Wildlife Specialist
Malin Clyde, Volunteer Specialist



Volunteers Working for Wildlife

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.



2020

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

In 2020, Coverts Cooperators contributed **24,097 volunteer hours** on behalf of forest stewardship or wildlife habitat issues in their communities, valued at over **\$632,000**. Coverts Cooperators **worked to conserve over 5,226 acres** of land in their communities, and **reached out to over 11,876 people** with a message of sound forest stewardship and wildlife conservation in 2020.

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. 2020 impacts from this group of volunteers include:

- Volunteers delivered **6** public talks reaching **154** people
- Volunteers led **4** field walks, with over **49** participants

Since the development of the program in 2010, *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteers have delivered over **350 presentations** and **150 field walks** reaching over **9,500 people** throughout New Hampshire.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Coverts volunteers currently own or manage **over 143,000 acres** in New Hampshire and manage thousands of acres for wildlife each year.

Coverts Habitat Management in 2020

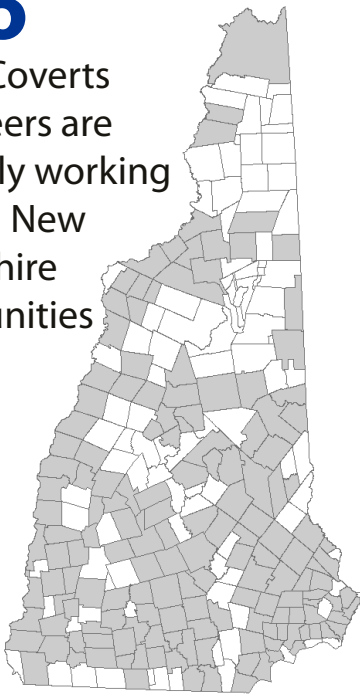
Resource Inventory	2,097 acres
Grasslands/Old Field Management	1,249 acres
Wetlands Enhancement	306 acres
Timber Stand Improvement	286 acres
Early Successional Management	251 acres
Hardwood Management	243 acres
Softwood Management	145 acres

The acres add up.

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

12,130 acres of early successional habitat have been created or maintained	19,244 acres of grasslands & old fields have been kept open	9,716 acres managed to enhance softwood habitats for a variety of wildlife
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446
active Coverts
volunteers are
currently working
in 165+ New
Hampshire
communities



CUMULATIVE IMPACTS 1999-2020

Since 1999 (the first year data is available), Coverts volunteers have contributed over **380,600 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 **509,000 people** through outreach efforts, and worked to permanently conserve **330,000 acres** of land.

ADAPTING in 2020

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, NH Coverts Project staff (in partnership with UNH Extension & NH Fish and Game leadership) made the decision to cancel this year's annual training workshop.
- In lieu of holding the annual workshop, Coverts Project staff focused on the development of online programming to provide continuing education for existing NH Coverts Project volunteers and others interested in wildlife, habitat management, and forest stewardship, including:
 - *Learn Your Land: Inventorying & Monitoring Wildlife on Your Property* – August 11, 2020; 68 participants
 - *Using Trail Cameras to Study Wildlife* – September 9, 2020; 164 attendees
 - *NH Woods & Wildlife: Live! Nature & Ecology of NH's Wildlife* – May 14, 2020; 1,700 views
 - *NH Woods & Wildlife: Live! Stewardship & Management of NH's Habitats* – May 21, 2020; 399 views
- 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.
- Promoted Coverts participation in hundreds of trainings and volunteer opportunities statewide, including through *Nature Groupie*.
- Continued the *Speaking for Wildlife* volunteer speakers bureau program, training 11 new volunteers – many who are also Coverts Cooperators. An additional training was held for existing volunteers interested in presenting online.

LOOKING AHEAD to 2021



- Train up to 25 new volunteers at the 2021 Coverts Workshop, currently scheduled for May 5-8 in Greenfield, NH. However, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Coverts Project staff is currently in the initial stages of discussing and planning for a hybrid model involving both online and in-person outdoor learning.
- Continue to improve volunteer and continuing education opportunities for Coverts volunteers, including through *Nature Groupie*.
- Plan and implement continuing education opportunities specifically for NH Coverts Project volunteers. Special attention will be given to development of online trainings and small, in-person gatherings (as possible).