



NFWF

New England Forests and Rivers 2017 Grant Slate

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American woodcock

OVERVIEW

The New England Forests and Rivers Fund strives to restore and sustain healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird populations, as well as freshwater and diadromous fish populations. The program invests in projects that:

- Strengthen the health of forest systems by improving the management of public and private forestlands to create a mosaic of mixed age forests in the region
- Provide incentives to strengthen habitat conservation on working forests through flexible technical assistance that is appropriate for the forest stage(s) being targeted
- Improve the quality of river and stream systems through targeted riparian and stream restoration
- Reduce barriers to fish passage and increase fish access to high quality habitat, thereby increasing overall aquatic connectivity
- Enhance biodiversity of forest and river systems and increase populations of species representative of system health, such as New England cottontail, american woodcock, bay-breasted warbler, canada warbler, wood thrush, river herring and eastern brook trout.

Grants were evaluated on established criteria including 1) program goals and priorities, 2) technical merit, 3) budget, 4) partnership strength, 5) funding need, 6) conservation plan and context, 7) monitoring and 8) sustainability.

The project slate represents a total recommended award amount of \$1.3 million which will be further leveraged by \$1.4 million in grantee matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of \$2.7 million.

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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Restoring Aquatic Passage for River Herring and Other Diadromous Fish On the Pawtucket River (RI)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy, Rhode Island
 Grant Amount: \$158,624
 Matching Funds: \$158,624
Total Project: \$317,248

The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island will decrease flooding and restore fish passage in the Pawcatuck River for American shad, American eel and river herring. The project will create a fishway in place of Bradford Dam and open up 77 miles of upstream habitat and provide fish access to close to 2000 acres of historic spawning and nursery areas.

Documenting Bicknell's Thrush Use of Commercial Young Forest for Lower Elevation Breeding (ME, NH)

Grantee: Vermont Center for Ecostudies
 Grant Amount: \$50,609
 Matching Funds: \$51,905
Total Project: \$102,514

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies will document how Bicknell's thrush uses young forest habitat in managed commercial forest stands in New Hampshire and Maine and identify the specific stand characteristics associated with occupancy during the breeding season. The project will use the data to revise and update the existing best management practices in forests managed for production of timber and pulpwood.

Restoring Aquatic Connectivity for Eastern Brook Trout and River Herring on the Machias River (ME)

Grantee: Project SHARE
 Grant Amount: \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$218,600
Total Project: \$418,600

Project SHARE will restore aquatic connectivity and instream habitat on the Machias and East Machias Rivers in Maine for eastern brook trout, Atlantic salmon and river herring. The project will replace 16 culverts, remove five remnant barriers and add large wood habitat structure, re-connecting 25.9 miles of historic cold water spawning habitat and improving habitat complexity and historic flow processes.

Restoring River Herring Access to China Lake by Modifying Barriers for Diadromous Fish Species (ME)

Grantee: Maine Rivers
 Grant Amount: \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$213,777
Total Project: \$413,777

Maine Rivers will remove six fish passage barriers or install fish passages on Outlet stream in Vassalboro, Maine to restore historic access for river herring and other diadromous fish to China Lake, a historically important

spawning habitat. The project will restore over five miles of aquatic connectivity between China Lake, the Sebasticook River and the ocean, resulting in an expected annual run of between 800,000 and 950,000 river herring.

Restoring Two Miles of Instream Woody Habitat Structure to Benefit Eastern Brook Trout (NH)

Grantee: Belknap County Conservation District
 Grant Amount: \$55,730
 Matching Funds: \$56,400
Total Project: \$112,130

Belknap County Conservation District will restore instream habitat structure that will re-establish natural stream conditions and create pools and spawning habitat for Eastern brook trout on Poorfarm Brook in the Gunstock Recreation Area near Gilford, New Hampshire. The project will install large woody material in 28 locations to restore two miles of historic habitat to be used as a demonstration of the effectiveness of the technique.

Using Science-Based Forestry Practices to Target and Recruit Landowners in Key Watersheds (NH)

Grantee: University of New Hampshire
 Grant Amount: \$102,942
 Matching Funds: \$102,942
Total Project: \$205,884

University of New Hampshire will develop multiple forest management regimes to benefit priority forest birds, including wood thrush and the black-throated blue warbler, based on existing forest inventory data from the United State Forest Service and landowner-specific data from The Forestland Group, a large landowner in northern New Hampshire. The project will enable 82 landowners to implement the appropriate management practices to improve management on 1,500 acres of early successional and late successional habitat.

Demonstrating Integrated Forest Management Practices at a Large Scale to Benefit Focal Birds (MA)

Grantee: Massachusetts Audubon Society
 Grant Amount: \$82,175
 Matching Funds: \$130,000
Total Project: \$212,175

Massachusetts Audubon Society will develop a long-term forest management demonstration program that projects 100 years of rotational forest management for early and late successional forest habitat, on Massachusetts Audubon's 1,000 acre Elm Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in central Massachusetts. The project will utilize an enhanced version of a previously developed decision support tool at two sites to improve 30 acres of habitat for American woodcock and 99 acres for the black-throated blue warbler.

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Bobcat

Helping Private Landowners Improve Mature Forest Habitat for Birds in the Lower Kennebec River (ME)

Grantee: Maine Audubon Society

Grant Amount: \$96,372

Matching Funds: \$97,534

Total Project: \$193,906

Maine Audubon Society will improve mature forest habitat for forest-dwelling birds, including the black-throated blue warbler, and identify priority sites to improve riparian habitat that benefits Eastern brook trout and diadromous fish populations. The project will improve 300 acres of mature forest habitat for multiple bird species and assess the best areas for riparian habitat restoration, especially those sites that intersect with undeveloped forest.

Improving a Road-Stream Crossing in Stratford to Benefit Eastern Brook Trout and Mammals (NH)

Grantee: New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Grant Amount: \$138,329

Matching Funds: \$181,865

Total Project: \$320,194

New Hampshire Department of Transportation will restore aquatic connectivity in the Connecticut River Valley by

replacing a culvert in a highly scored priority site for Eastern brook trout and enhance terrestrial connectivity for multiple mammal species. The project will connect 1.6 miles of upstream coldwater habitat and install a dry ledge to allow mammals, including fisher, mink and bobcat to cross safely under northern New Hampshire’s busiest road.

Demonstrating Efficacy of Young Forest Restoration for New England Cottontail and Birds (CT, ME, NH)

Grantee: University of New Hampshire

Grant Amount: \$174,838

Matching Funds: \$174,874

Total Project: \$349,712

University of New Hampshire will document for the first time population level response of New England cottontails and other young-forest-dependent species to previous and planned early successional forest habitat management activities in Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine. The project will utilize a capture-recapture population estimate combined with a pellet survey on thirty sites totaling 482 acres and will develop a landscape scale model to predict future abundance on 28,800 acres of restored habitat.