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February 2026 NHACC E-News

1 message

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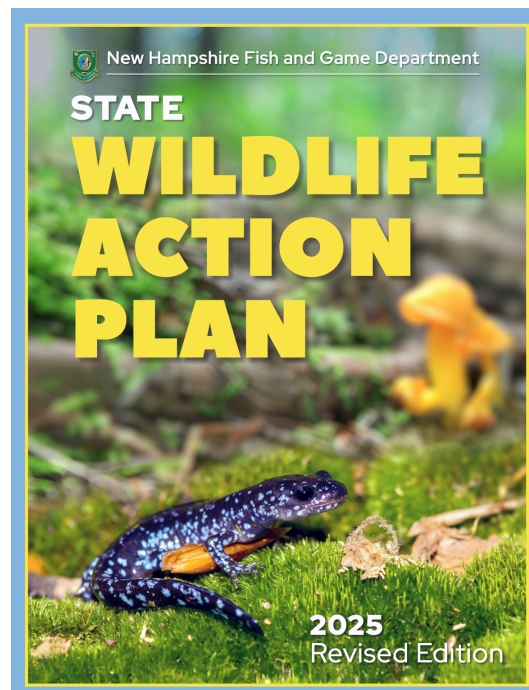
Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 8:52 AM

Conservation Commission Activities, Training Opportunities, Grants and more!



Updated Wildlife Action Plan Now Available

New Hampshire has released an updated State Wildlife Action Plan, establishing conservation priorities for wildlife and habitats statewide through 2035. This ten-year plan provides a framework for protecting threatened and endangered species, conserving priority habitats, and maintaining healthy populations of common species. Shaped by two years of collaboration among biologists, conservation organizations, universities, and state agencies – and strengthened by input from more than 1,200 residents across 212 communities – the plan reflects both sound science and a deep public commitment to the future of New Hampshire's wildlife.



The revised plan is now available on the [NH Fish & Game website](#).

Consider Updating your NRI

As new information becomes available, it is a good time to review your NRI and consider updating the data and prepare addenda to the inventory as appropriate. Natural resources inventories are working documents and should be updated every 5 to 10 years

In order to protect natural resources in our communities, we must first learn what natural resources are present. A Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) is required in New Hampshire by [RSA 36-A](#). Make your NRI available to the public. Updates are a great time to educate the community on the importance of protecting natural resources and the benefits natural resources provide to the community. The NRI is the foundation of your town's Conservation Plan and should be used by the planning board as a screening tool to identify significant resources. The information should be included in your town's Master Plan to defend land use regulations.

Training & Education Opportunities

Stream Crossings, Wetlands and Flood Planning Tool Webinar

Wednesday, February 18, from 10:00–11:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams.

The session will walk participants through how to access and understand free stream crossing assessment data, new ratings to support prioritization, practical examples of how municipalities can use the tool to support planning, capital budgeting, and grant readiness, and how municipalities can directly contribute to stream crossing database maintenance in the future. [Click here to register](#). For more information, contact Henry Underwood at hunderwood@swrpc.org.

NH Star Island Natural History Week

From June 21 to June 28.

This is a wonderful opportunity to study the waterways around us: The Great Bay, Gulf of Maine, and the rivers and estuaries that sustain us. Join Conservation Law Foundation's Great Bay–Piscataqua–Waterkeeper, Melissa Paly and her colleagues as they engage us with the current research and teach advocacy to protect our water. We will dive deep into exploring the health of our waterways, their biodiversity, and the possibilities for the future. This interdisciplinary conference will combine science, advocacy, art, awe, and fun. Come prepared to actively engage in being a part of the solution! Go to the [Star Island Website](#) for info.

Check out Nature Groupie for Training and Education Programs

[Nature Groupie](#), is a program coordinated by UNH Extension that helps match volunteers with conservation opportunities. This online platform is an easy way to recruit younger volunteers and support the needs of these conservation organizations in New England. They are a great resource for commissions who want to promote programs and volunteer activities.



NH Coverts Project is accepting applications

Each year, UNH Cooperative Extension and NH Fish & Game bring together 25 conservation-minded individuals with a team of natural resource professionals to learn about wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, conservation, and effective outreach. The 2026 NH Coverts Project Workshop will take place from May 6–9 in Greenfield, NH. Participants pay a \$50 registration fee; program sponsors fund all lodging, food, and other expenses. Application deadline is March 1, 2026. [Learn More & Apply](#)



Demystifying Conservation Easements: Webinar and Individualized Discussion Sessions

Join Barbara (NHACC) and Sara (UNH Extension) for an online training to learn more about the basics of conservation easements. Barbara and Sara will help decipher the structure and jargon of a conservation easement and walk through the essential sections for effective easement monitoring. Conservation Commissions that attend the webinar will have an additional opportunity to participate in a small group discussion session with Barbara, Sara and an additional conservation easement expert to answer your specific questions. For more information about the webinar and discussion sessions, please see [UNH Extension website](#).

Learn More About Salt Marshes

Learn the steps you can take to protect NH salt marshes. NH DES developed this guide for coastal residents, landscapers and community leaders looking to protect tidal marshes and strengthen the resilience of homes and neighborhoods. It offers practical, science-based tips for managing shoreline properties so that, as sea levels rise, the landscape can adapt and continue to safeguard both people and nature. [Go to the DES website](#) for more information.

CCs in the News

Read All About it at the Canaan Town Forest StoryWalk!

All this snow couldn't have come at a better time for the new StoryWalk in the Canaan Town Forest. The picture book "Over and Under the Snow" by local author Kate Messner is presented page by page along a well-marked trail in the Town Forest on Route 4 in Canaan, NH.

It's a wonderful family-friendly adventure. Follow the story as you walk in the forest, stopping at each station to read the story. At the end of the trail is Canaan's nature hut which is supplied with writing and drawing materials. Families are encouraged to stop in, sign the log book and create! Artwork and writings can be posted on the nature hut bulletin board or taken home.

The Canaan StoryWalk book will change with the seasons. Each title will provide a framework for observing the forest along the walk, celebrating the plants and animals that make this habitat home. The Canaan Story Walk is presented jointly by the Friends of Canaan Town Library, The **Canaan Town Library** and the Canaan NH Conservation Commission.

StoryWalk is a registered service mark and was created by Anne Ferguson and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, Vt.



Jennifer McAlister with her daughter on the StoryWalk station in the Canaan Town Forest
Photo by Jennifer McAlister

Grants

2026 AARP Community Challenge

Application deadline: March 4, 2026

A grant program to make communities more livable for people of all ages with tangible improvements that jump-start long-term change.

AARP is accepting applications for the 2026 funding cycle that:

- Deliver tangible improvements to communities, such as new crosswalks, benches, bike lanes, housing designs, and public space enhancements.
- Leverage additional support from public, private, and philanthropic sources
- Help communities overcome policy barriers and implement lasting change
- Foster new collaborations and increase community engagement

Learn more by downloading the [AARP Community Challenge Q&A Fact-Sheet](#) and by using the [Your Questions Answered](#) tool.

Climate Smart Communities Initiative

Application deadline: March 12, 2026

Target population: Communities affected by climate crises

Description: The Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) provides grants to support community-based climate resilience projects across the U.S. Grants are open to climate adaptation professionals working in partnership with community-based organizations and government agencies to develop or advance resilience plans and projects. Activities may include climate risk assessments, planning and prioritization, community engagement, and project implementation. Priority is given to communities on the front lines of the climate crisis facing significant environmental and socioeconomic challenges. Go to the [Climate Smart Website](#) to learn more.

Visit our Website

[NHACC.org](https://www.nhacc.org)

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