



MANAGING STATE LANDS FOR WILDLIFE

Local and Regional Partnerships



Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership

This partnership is a group of conservation organizations committed to protecting the important habitats of the Great Bay region. Fish and Game staff was instrumental in founding the partnership in 1994. Since then, the partnership has conserved thousands of acres of land around Great Bay. Partnering organizations also collaborate on managing those lands. For more information on the Partnership, click [here](#).

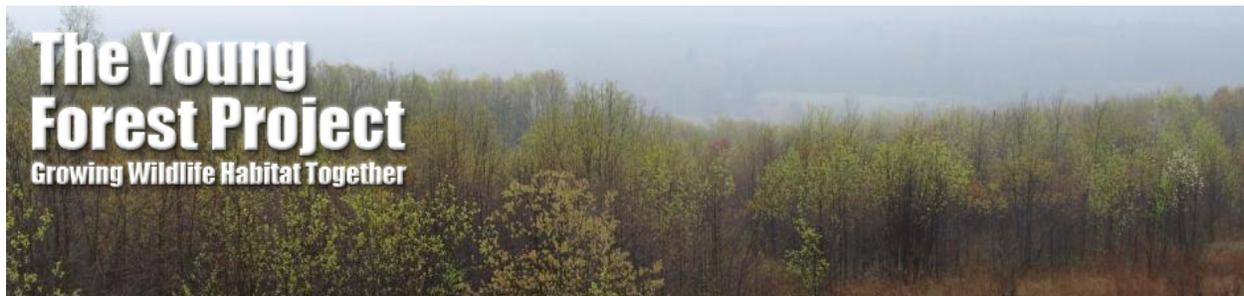
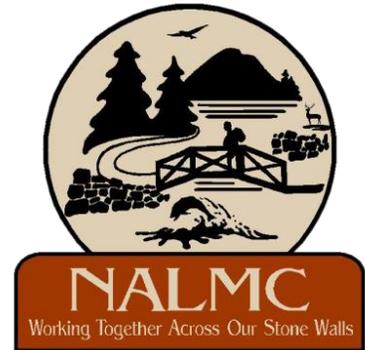
NH Prescribed Fire Council

Prescribed fire is an important habitat management tool that had largely gone unused on state lands for several years. In order to more safely, efficiently, and effectively use prescribed fire as a management tool in New Hampshire, several organizations and agencies formed a prescribed fire council in 2009 to promote the safe use of prescribed fire on the New Hampshire landscape. The council provides a mechanism to better collaborate and share resources among organizations.

State lands habitat staff coordinated the development of minimum recommended standards for conducting prescribed burns in New Hampshire including specifications for burn plans, smoke management, and crew and equipment levels in order to safely conduct prescribed burns. A Memorandum of Understanding officially allows the sharing of staff and equipment to plan and implement burns, and to assist with training. For more information on the council, visit the [NH Prescribed Fire Council](#) webpage.

Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative

Fish and Game staff helped to found and coordinate the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative (NALMC) in 2006. The NALMC is an informal group of landowners working together on issues related to land, habitat, and management in and around Northwood Meadows State Park, Forest Peters WMA, and the privately owned Harmony Hill Farm. The idea is that many landowners collaborating on land and habitat management across a local landscape will have a much more meaningful and positive impact on wildlife habitat conservation than if individual landowners go it alone. This is especially important in southern New Hampshire where land ownerships are small. [Click here](#) for more information on NALMC.



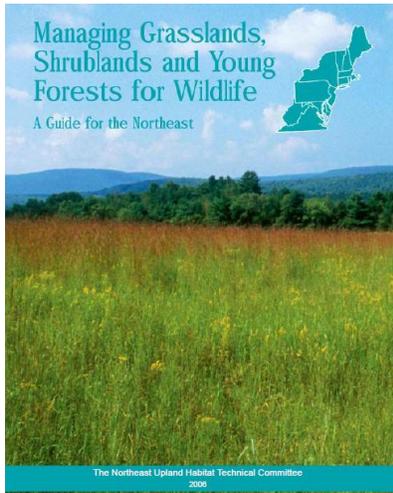
Young Forest Habitat Communications Strategy for the Northeast

A variety of wildlife, such as New England cottontails, golden-winged warblers, and American woodcock, has been declining for numerous decades because of a lack of young forest habitats. Historically, these habitats were created by natural disturbances (e.g., fire, flooding, and severe windthrow) that are largely curtailed in today's society. Now, active habitat management is required to sustain them. Attaining young forest habitat goals outlined in numerous wildlife plans will be a formidable challenge given many barriers including a general lack of public knowledge and/or support for the management of these habitats. Fish and Game State Lands Habitat and Public Affairs staff lead a regional effort to develop and implement a communications plan for the Northeast to heighten awareness about these important habitats and improve public support for their management.

A New Toolbox

Tools that are available include:

- The [Young Forest website](#);
- A regional and NH specific young forest [video](#);
- A [series](#) of Power Point presentations, brochures, fact sheets and handbooks geared toward training key natural resource professionals (e.g., consulting foresters, private lands biologists, and park interpreters) to become more effective communicators about the benefits of young forest habitats.



NHFG State Lands Habitat Program staff coordinated the development of a regional guide to promote the creation and management of grasslands, shrublands, and young forest habitats throughout the Northeast.

State Lands Habitat staff also coordinated the development of a habitat manual titled, “[Managing Grasslands, Shrublands, and Young Forest Habitats for Wildlife: A Guide for the Northeast](#).” The manual provides guidance on how to manage these habitats as a means of promoting their creation and maintenance on both public and private lands throughout the Northeast.