

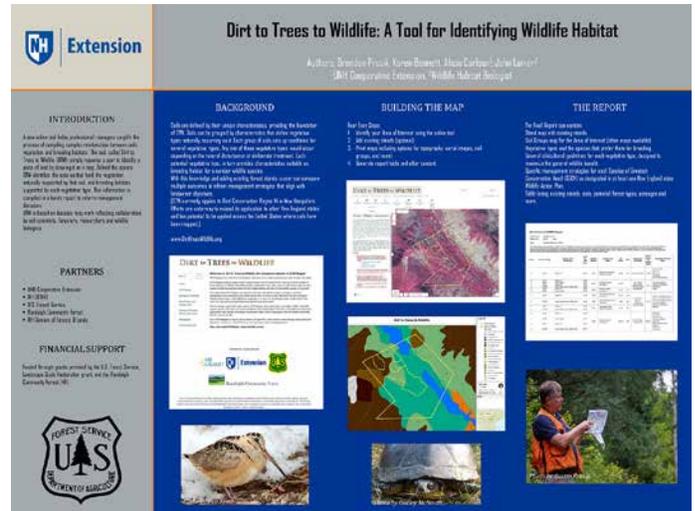
New Web-Based Program Helps Landowners Match Soil & Trees to Promote Wildlife

The Challenge:

There's a lot of information on the web to help forest landowners make decisions about their land. However, this abundance can be challenging for people looking for specific information, such as how to manage their land to promote wildlife. Planting a tree to provide habitat for threatened bird species is considered good for the environment. But how can someone predict whether the tree they plant will grow to its full potential, or wither and die? In the long run, matching the right tree to the right soil type can make a big difference between success and failure. The solution is to design a tool that simplifies the process.

The Solution:

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension developed the **Dirt to Trees to Wildlife** program (DTW) to help users make better informed decisions when incorporating wildlife habitat into their land management plans. The desired outcome is a well-managed forest over a long period of time with trees growing in suitable soils and wildlife habitat incorporated. The program also simplifies how a forest landowner or other interested individual can access and use the information. It puts all of the needed data into a convenient, user-friendly place that is designed for end users, forest landowners, land managers, and foresters alike. The program was made possible by a \$105,774 USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry cost-share grant and support from a coalition of partner organizations and individuals.



Graphic courtesy of UNH Cooperative Extension

Resulting Benefits:

Landowners and natural resource managers can use DTW to make better forest management decisions that help meet their wildlife habitat goals. This program saves users time by compiling and interpreting the complex data relationships between soils, trees, and wildlife. Wildlife species ultimately also benefit from better managed forests.

Sharing Success:

Grant recipients conducted 7 workshops that have reached 215 attendees to date. These workshops combined demonstrations and hands-on computer use of the DTW Mapper, a companion program. Some workshops also included a field trip. An estimated 37 landowners and/or natural resource professionals who collectively manage an estimated 37,500 acres have used DTW in some phase of their planning and management activities.

Federal Award: 16-DG-11420004-315

The Dirt to Trees to Wildlife program benefitted an estimated 37,500 acres of land.



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