

## Women in the Woods

**New program provides forestry support and education for women landowners and managers**

Tuesday, November 29, 2022



Have you ever walked in the woods while 15 women are running chainsaws? While historically this hasn't been a common sight in New Hampshire, UNH Extension is now helping make it a more frequent reality.

The health of New Hampshire's forests is defined by the ability of private landowners to make informed management decisions on their properties. Women landowners contribute to management decisions on over 1.8 million acres of the state's forestland and

SUBSCRIBE TO THE UNH TODAY NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE TO UNH TODAY RSS

are the primary decision makers on 23% (429,000 acres) of private forestland. Nationally, land ownership trends are showing that women are increasingly becoming the primary decision makers for privately owned forests.

Despite this national trend, research has revealed that women are less likely, overall, to participate in management activities, partly because outreach efforts have not reached women as successfully as men. In response to this need, UNH Extension, [New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association \(NHTOA\)](#), [the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests](#) (Forest Society) and other partners have committed to increasing engagement with this underserved and underrepresented audience through the [Women in the Woods](#) program.

“Women landowners play a significant role in managing New Hampshire's forests, and it's important we support them with the resources, training and skills they need to make stewardship

### RESEARCH NEEDED

No studies have been conducted in New Hampshire to examine women's behaviors and attitudes towards forest management or the barriers they face. In my position with Extension and for graduate research, I collaborated with the Women in the Woods program to develop a statewide needs assessment of women forest landowners and managers. The survey collects information about barriers to forest management, skills needed, land stewardship priorities and demographic information. It also examines personal experiences and opinions among women who own or manage forestland.

decisions and effectively manage their forestland,” says Haley Andreozzi, UNH Extension state specialist in wildlife conservation.

Women in the Woods workshops have included training on chainsaw safety and maintenance, tree identification, winter wildlife tracking and logging with farm tractors. A key component of these workshops is that they are designed for women and are led by women with experience in educational programs.

Rebecca DiGirolomo, UNH Extension natural resources field specialist, sees this trend reflected in requests for technical assistance visits in the communities she serves — Belknap and Strafford counties. “More than half of the visits I have had in 2022 were requested by women landowners, professionals or volunteers,” she says.



**PARTICIPANTS IN THE WOMEN IN THE WOODS PROGRAM.**

project leadership in survey development and distribution, network creation, trainings and evaluation.

The information collected from the survey will inform strategies for program development, workshop topics, resource creation and technical assistance.

— Amy Gaudreau, UNH Extension forest stewardship outreach program manager

With support from the [USDA Forest Service](#), the team is identifying needs and implementing outreach strategies to support women landowners. As the primary outreach mechanism of UNH, Extension is in a unique position to provide

“The Women in the Woods program allows us to utilize Extension’s existing connections to landowners, relationships with conservation partners and expertise in outreach and engagement, but with special attention paid to what women landowners want and need,” says Andreozzi.

The Women in the Woods team is comprised of UNH Extension State Specialist for Wildlife Conservation Haley Andreozzi, UNH Extension Forest Stewardship Outreach Program Manager Amy Gaudreau, UNH Extension Natural Resources Field Specialist Rebecca DiGirolomo, UNH Extension Natural Resources Field Specialist Wendy Scribner, NHTOA Program Director Cheri Birch and Forest Society Managing Forester Wendy Weisiger.

*(This story appears in the latest edition of [Radius](#), the annual storytelling publication of [UNH Extension](#).)*

WRITTEN [Amy Gaudreau](#) | UNH Cooperative Extension

BY:

PHOTOGRAPHER [Amy Gaudreau](#) | UNH Cooperative Extension

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## RELATED ARTICLES

---

# FIGURES

2021 REPORT ON DISABILITY  
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



December 13, 2021 | RESEARCH

## IOD's Facts & Figures: 2021 Report on Disability in New Hampshire Now Available

---

# Institute on Disability/UCED



University of  
New Hampshire

December 2, 2021 | COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## Telehealth and Individuals with IDD: Challenges and Best-Practices

---



THE  
STAR  
*Institute of  
University*

November 30, 2021 | COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## New Medical Training to Address the Needs of People with IDD

---



**University of New Hampshire**

UNH Today is produced for the UNH community and for friends of UNH.

The stories are written by the staff of **UNH Communications and Public Affairs**.

Email us: [unhtoday.editor@unh.edu](mailto:unhtoday.editor@unh.edu).



UNH Today • UNH Main Directory: 603-862-1234  
Copyright © 2023 • TTY Users: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2964 (Relay NH)

[USNH Privacy Policies](#) • [USNH Terms of Use](#) • [ADA Acknowledgement](#)

[MANAGE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION](#)  [CONTACT](#)  
[US](#)