Averill Mountain Wildlife Management Area

Last edited: 9/30/22

General Description

Averill Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 561-acre parcel of land owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The WMA is located in the town of Norton, Vermont. It lies 2.8 miles east of Norton village on the north side of Route 114, and encompasses a large portion of Averill Mountain. It is bordered on three sides by private lands and its northern border is Canada.

Access to this WMA is by foot travel only, at the discretion of private landowners along Route 114. There is no legal right-of-way to this WMA.

History

Land use in the WMA has always been based in natural resource utilization. Principal uses were logging of forest products, hunting, and trapping. John Cattier donated the land to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department in 1971.

Photo credit: L. Richardson

Habitat Features

The summit of Averill Mountain is 2,200 feet in elevation; from it one can view Great Averill Pond and the surrounding mountainous countryside to the south. It is a steep and rocky site, forested with red maple, sugar maple, yellow birch, beech and ash. The south slope is extremely steep and has numerous small cliffs, crevices and small boulders.

A major ice storm in 1998 caused severe damage to nearly all trees in the WMA, stripping about half of the limbs from most of them. Although this natural disturbance killed some trees and left others with a pruned, misshapen appearance, it may benefit wildlife in several ways. More sunlight can reach the ground, so dense shrubs and young trees thrive in the new openings. These are used for food and cover by animals ranging from the tiny hermit thrush to moose. Snag-dependent wildlife will benefit from the numerous cavities formed in the living, dead and dying trees, and the abundant insects inhabiting them.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals White-tailed deer, moose and black bear inhabit this WMA. Porcupines may find suitable dens in the many rocky cliffs and crevices. Signs of the more elusive carnivores are commonly found, including those of coyotes, bobcats and fishers.

Birds Raptors such as the goshawk, sharp-shinned, Cooper's and broad-winged hawk may frequent the area, along with great-horned and barred owl.
Many common species associated with northern hardwood forests, including hairy and downy woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, and a variety of warblers breed on the area.

Porcupines inhabit northern hardwood forests.
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Reptiles and Amphibians Due to its relatively high elevation and lack of wetlands, the area provides terrestrial habitat suitable for only a few species. Northern red-bellied snake, northern ring-necked snake, and red-backed salamander may inhabit the hardwood forest.

Fish There are no fishable waters on this WMA.

Averill Mountain WMA is open to regulated hunting, trapping, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

VERMONT

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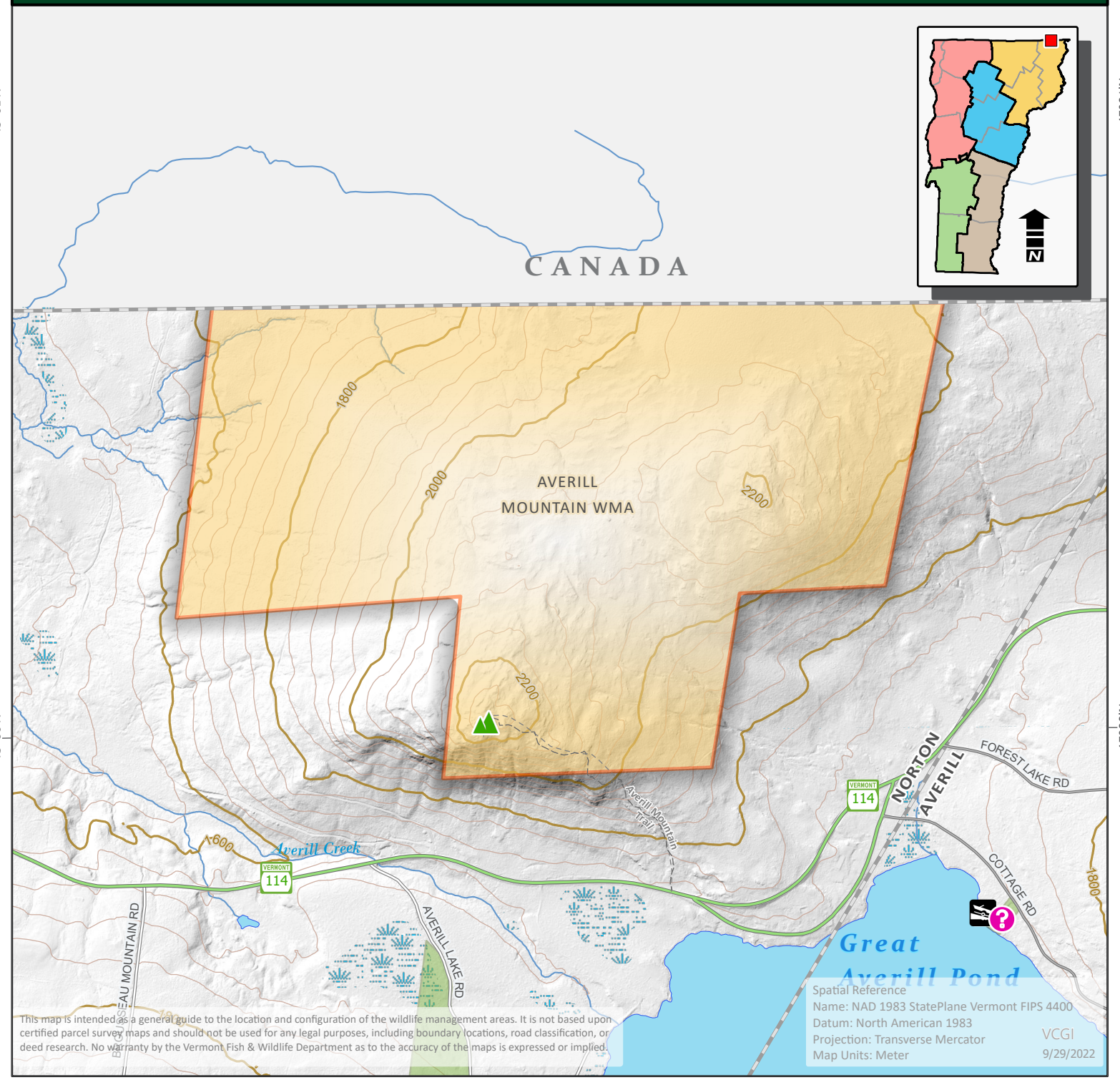

Averill Mountain WMA

Map Number: 15

- Parking
- Boat Ramp
- Cartop Access
- Park Office
- Shooting Range
- Wildlife Viewing Area
- Campground
- Vista
- Fishing Access
- Visitor Information
- Gate
- Rail Lines
- Trails
- Town Boundary
- Wildlife Management Area
- WMA Hunting Rights Only
- Refuge (no public access)
- Special hunting/trapping restrictions
- Streambank Management Area
- Controlled Hunting Area
- Federal Land
- State Land
- Town Land