

Lemon Fair Wildlife Management Area

Last edited: 9/30/22



General Description

The majority of the 1586-acre Lemon Fair Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in Bridport, in central western Vermont (with a small parcel in Weybridge). It is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Visitors should remain in the right of way due to cattle present on the property.

History

Native Americans frequented the low-lying and placid Lemon Fair River. The origin of the name is obscure, but one explanation is that it is an anglicized version of the French "Limon faire," which means "To make mud." Another version is that it was called "Le mon faire" or "Let the people be."

A good portion of the Lemon Fair floodplains were probably originally covered with Champlain Valley clayplain forest; but during European-American settlement the land was cleared for agriculture. Some of the fields along the stream were once "marsh hayfields" and were harvested communally.

The Department made its first purchase in 2000 from Leo and Cheryl Conner. The Conner's farm is called Morgan Hill Farm, because it was a famous Morgan horse-breeding farm in the mid-19th century. Black Hawk, whose blood runs in many present-day Morgans, was bred here. Black Hawk's skeleton is on display at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge. The Conner farm is presently a dairy operation. Funding for the original property in the WMA came from the State Waterfowl Funds, generated by the sale of the Vermont Duck Stamp.

Since then, nearly 800 acres have been added to the original WMA boundaries, through Duck Stamp Funds, EPA Wetland Restoration grants, and Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB) grants. The latest acquisitions have helped the Department to continue to advance conservation in the Lemon Fair Lakeplain between Routes 125 and 74.

Habitat Features

The Lemon Fair arises in Orwell and flows north to empty into the Otter Creek in Weybridge. It is a mostly low-lying river with floodplains along many reaches. Part of the WMA is forested with mature silver and red maple, and some is grassland, pasture and old fields. Most of the WMA is in the floodplain.

A State-threatened mussel, the giant floater, occurs in the Lemon Fair River.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals All the Vermont wetland mammal species can be found here, including beaver, muskrat, otter and mink. There are probably also smaller wetland-dwelling mammals such as long-tailed weasels and star-nosed moles. Game species on the uplands are white-tailed deer and cottontail rabbit.

Upland furbearers would include red fox and coyote.

Birds Turkey and woodcock can be found on the upland portions of the WMA.

Waterfowl are present, especially when the floodplain is seasonally inundated. Breeding ducks in the area include mallards, black and wood ducks, blue-winged teal and hooded mergansers. Many other species pass through during migration. Great blue and green herons, other wading birds and shorebirds also use the WMA, particularly when it is flooded.



Great blue herons are Vermont's most common herons. USFWS photo.

Reptiles and Amphibians The rare four-toed salamander may be found on the WMA, along with more common salamanders such as spotted, northern dusky, red-backed and northern two-lined salamanders. Northern leopard, wood and bull frogs may be found in the Lemon Fair River, along with snapping and painted turtles. Snakes to look for are northern water, milk, smooth green, brown and the rarer red-bellied snake.

Fish Brown bullhead, northern pike and bass may be found in the Lemon Fair River.

Lemon Fair WMA is open to regulated hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

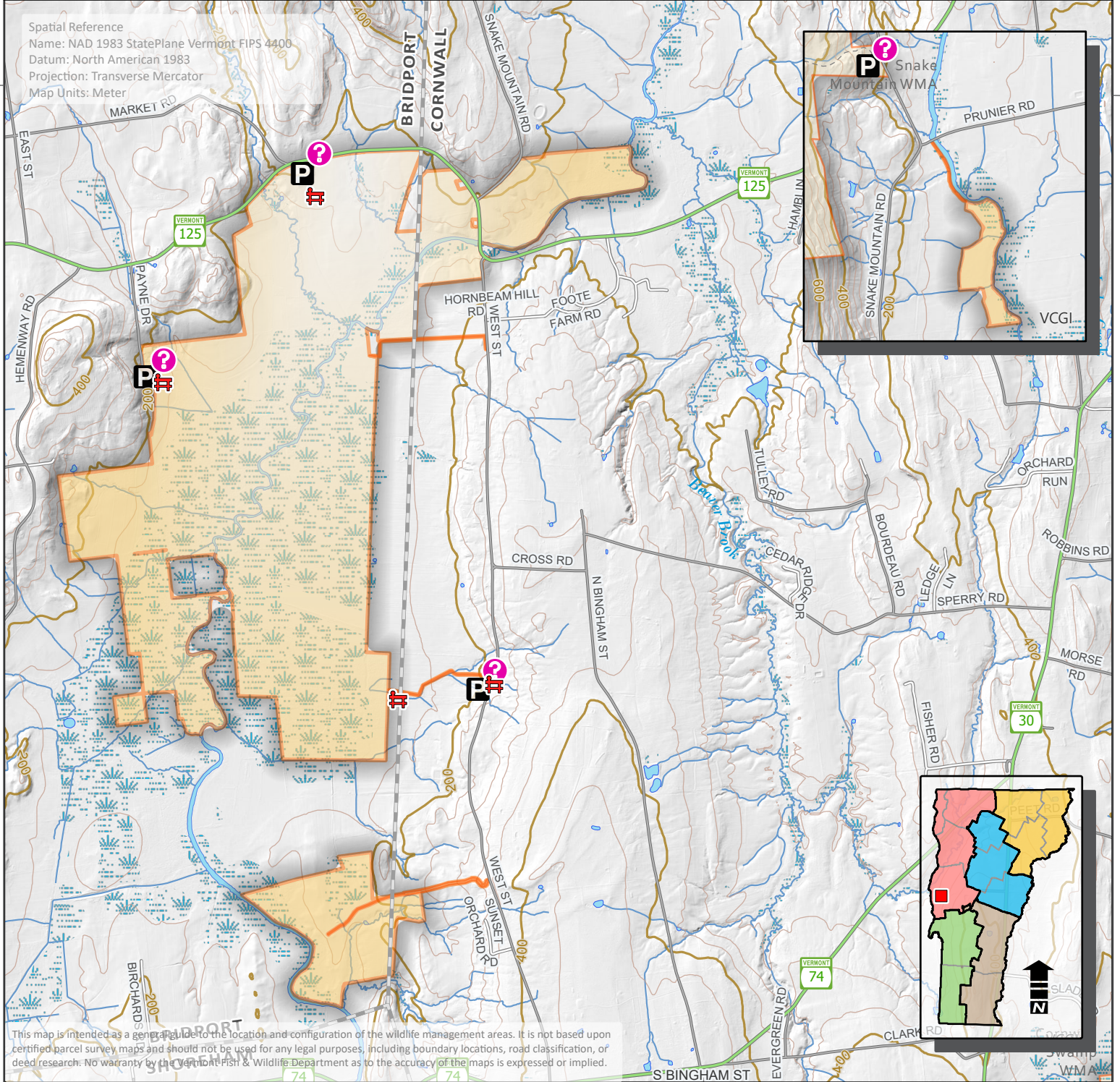


Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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Spatial Reference
 Name: NAD 1983 StatePlane Vermont FIPS 4400
 Datum: North American 1983
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Map Units: Meter

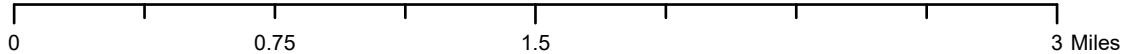


This map is intended as a general guide to the location and configuration of the wildlife management areas. It is not based upon certified parcel survey maps and should not be used for any legal purposes, including boundary locations, road classification, or deed research. No warranty by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department as to the accuracy of the maps is expressed or implied.

73°17W 73°16W 73°15W 73°14W 73°13W

44°00N
43°59N
43°58N
43°57N

44°00N
43°59N
43°58N
43°57N



Lemon Fair WMA

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