Skitchewaug Wildlife Management Area

Last edited: 9/30/22

General Description

Skitchewaug Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 218-acre parcel, which is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. One 175 acres are owned in fee simple. The previous owner has retained timber rights on the remaining 43 acres.

The WMA is located four miles east of Springfield on Route 143. It is bounded on the west by Interstate 91, and on the east by Route 5. There is no public access to Skitchewaug WMA at this time; please note that securing public access remains a high priority for the Department.

History

The land comprising the WMA was used to pasture cattle from the early 1900's to the 1940's. The property was acquired by the State in five different transactions. In December 1959, 43.2 acres were purchased from Arthur Davis. Timber rights on this parcel were reserved by the Tri State Timber Company. In 1964, 43.5 acres were purchased in fee simple from Lawrence and Wheeler, Inc. One month later, Craig Reid sold the State approximately 77 acres, also in fee simple. In October 1965, the State bought 46.42 acres from Raymond and Laura Trombley. The most recent and final purchase was an 8-acre landlocked parcel from Francis and Dorothy Lockwood. Monies generated from the sale of hunting licenses were used for these purchases.

Habitat Features

The topography on the Skitchewaug WMA is gently rolling. It is located in the Southern Vermont Piedmont biophysical region of Vermont. Elevations range from 400 feet along Route 5 to 800 feet at the northern edge. The headwaters of two tributaries of Spencer Brook begin at the northern edge of the parcel. There is also a wetland in that area.

Though small, the entire WMA functions as a wintering area for white-tailed deer. Oak and hickory trees on the parcel are an important food source for deer as well as other wildlife species. The steep cliff facing Route 5 is an historical nesting site for peregrine falcons. Records from the State archives suggest the presence of rattlesnakes in the very early 1900's.

Significant natural communities include hemlock swamp and red maple-black gum swamp. Glyceria acutiflora (sharp manna-grass) has been found along the northeast border of the WMA. It is listed as endangered in the State of Vermont.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals White-tailed deer, snowshoe hare, red and gray squirrels, red fox and coyote are some of the species that can be found on the WMA. There are also smaller rodents, voles, moles and shrews that are harder to detect.

Birds Ruffed grouse may be hunted in season. Peregrine falcons and other raptors may be found soaring around the cliff near Route 5. Woodpeckers and a wide variety of songbirds are present in the wooded sections of the WMA.

Turkey vultures often soar in the updrafts near cliffs.
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Reptiles and Amphibians Northern spring, northern twolined, red-backed and spotted salamanders and red-spotted newts may be found. American toads, spring peepers, gray tree, northern leopard and wood frogs may also be present. The WMA is home to red-bellied and common garter snakes.

Fish There are brook trout in the waters of the WMA.

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

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

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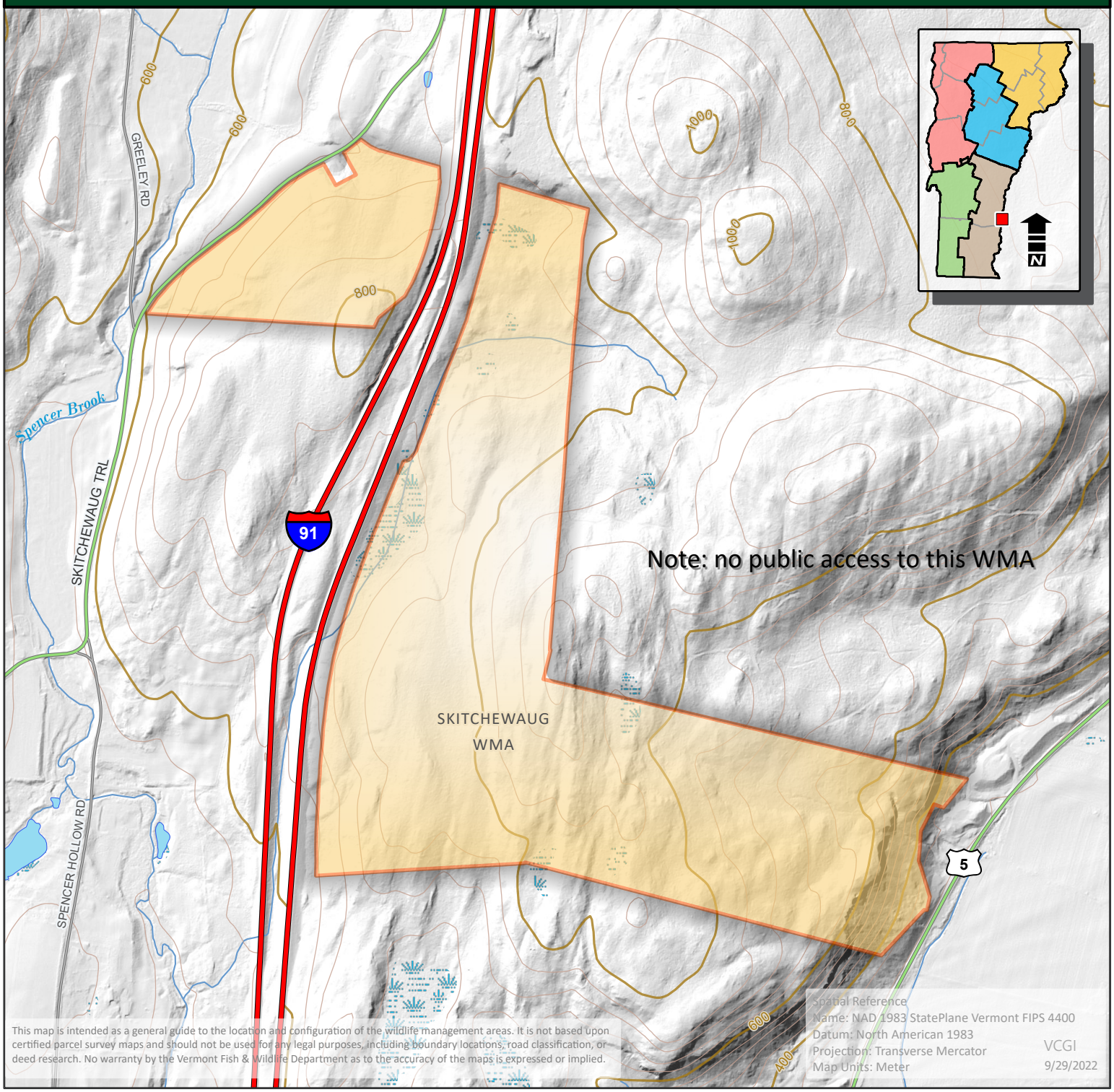

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

Skitchewaug WMA **Map Number: 71**

- 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