

Wenlock Wildlife Management Area

Last edited: 9/30/22



General Description

Wenlock Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 2,576-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 Ferdinand. Primary access from the north is provided by Route 105 (which parallels the Nulhegan River), and from the south and east by South America Pond Road. Wenlock WMA is 7.5 miles east and 8.5 miles west of the villages of Island Pond and Bloomfield, respectively.

There is a parking area on Route 105. Another parking area is located just south of Route 105 on South America Pond Road. The gate on South America Pond Road is closed during mud season. Visitors can also approach from the south via South America Pond Road.

History

Land use in the WMA has always been based in natural resource utilization. Principal uses were characterized by logging, trapping, fishing and hunting, all of which continue on the WMA and surrounding lands. Logging activities were in full swing when David Beattie built a large steam powered sawmill at Wenlock in 1881. In later years, the Canadian National Railroad provided a major transport route for softwood pulp shipped to New York State. At that time, the wood yard immediately west of the WMA was one of the busiest timber "sidings" in Vermont.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department purchased most of the WMA land in 1980. Federal Pittman-Robertson Act monies funded the acquisition. These monies are generated from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition. The Nature Conservancy facilitated the transaction by purchasing the property from a private landowner earlier the same year. Another 383 acres were added to the northwest end of the WMA in 2012.

Habitat Features

Wenlock WMA is generally boreal. It lies at the southern edge of a vast basin drained by the main stem and four branches of the Nulhegan River. The northern portion of the WMA is fairly level and forested mainly with spruce and fir. It includes extensive wetlands. Elevations on the WMA are from 1,140 to 1,200 feet, with a few hardwood knolls and ridges rising to more than 1,400 feet.

The "Nulhegan Wintering Area", a 15,000-acre softwood basin used by wintering white-tailed deer, is part of the largest such wintering area in the State. Deer gather

there from about 202 square miles of summer range. About 1,000 acres of Wenlock WMA are sprucefir-cedar forests and associated hardwood forests that provide the deer with critical wintering habitat. The WMA also encompasses Moose Bog, which has been designated a "Fragile Area" by the State of Vermont.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals

White-tailed deer are present here year-round, but are greatly concentrated during the winter. Wenlock WMA harbors moose throughout most of the year, especially in summer when the wetland areas provide succulent aquatic plant foods. During winter, moose seek hardwood patches within or adjacent to the WMA to browse on the abundant hardwood sprout growth.

Black bears are present throughout the year. Tracks and droppings are often seen, as the WMA offers bears food-producing

wetlands and abundant blueberries, raspberries and cherries. Bears also climb beech trees to get beechnuts, an important food resource.

Beaver are present in the various wetlands, as are mink, river otter, muskrat and raccoon. Also present are snowshoe hare, eastern coyote, red fox, bobcat, fisher and red squirrel.

Birds The WMA provides habitat for nesting and migrating waterfowl. Birds use bog ponds, beaver ponds and the Nulhegan River. Species most commonly seen are ringnecked, black and mallard ducks, hooded mergansers and Canada geese. Breeding bird species of particular importance are spruce grouse, black-backed woodpecker, gray jay and Cape May warbler; all of which breed in only a few other Vermont localities.

Other notable species that may be seen in the WMA are ruffed grouse, wood duck, boreal chickadee, rusty blackbird, yellow-bellied flycatcher, Swainson's thrush, Tennessee warbler, blackpoll warbler, Lincoln's sparrow and whitewinged crossbill. Raptors that utilize the area include goshawk, marsh hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and barred and great horned owls.

Reptiles and Amphibians Amphibians found in the area include northern spring, northern two-lined and red-backed salamanders, red-spotted newt, pickerel and wood frogs. Northern red-bellied and ring-necked snakes, painted and common snapping turtles likely inhabit the WMA.

Fish Various beaver ponds and the Nulhegan River and its tributaries have low to moderate populations of brook trout. Brook trout are also stocked downstream of the WMA.



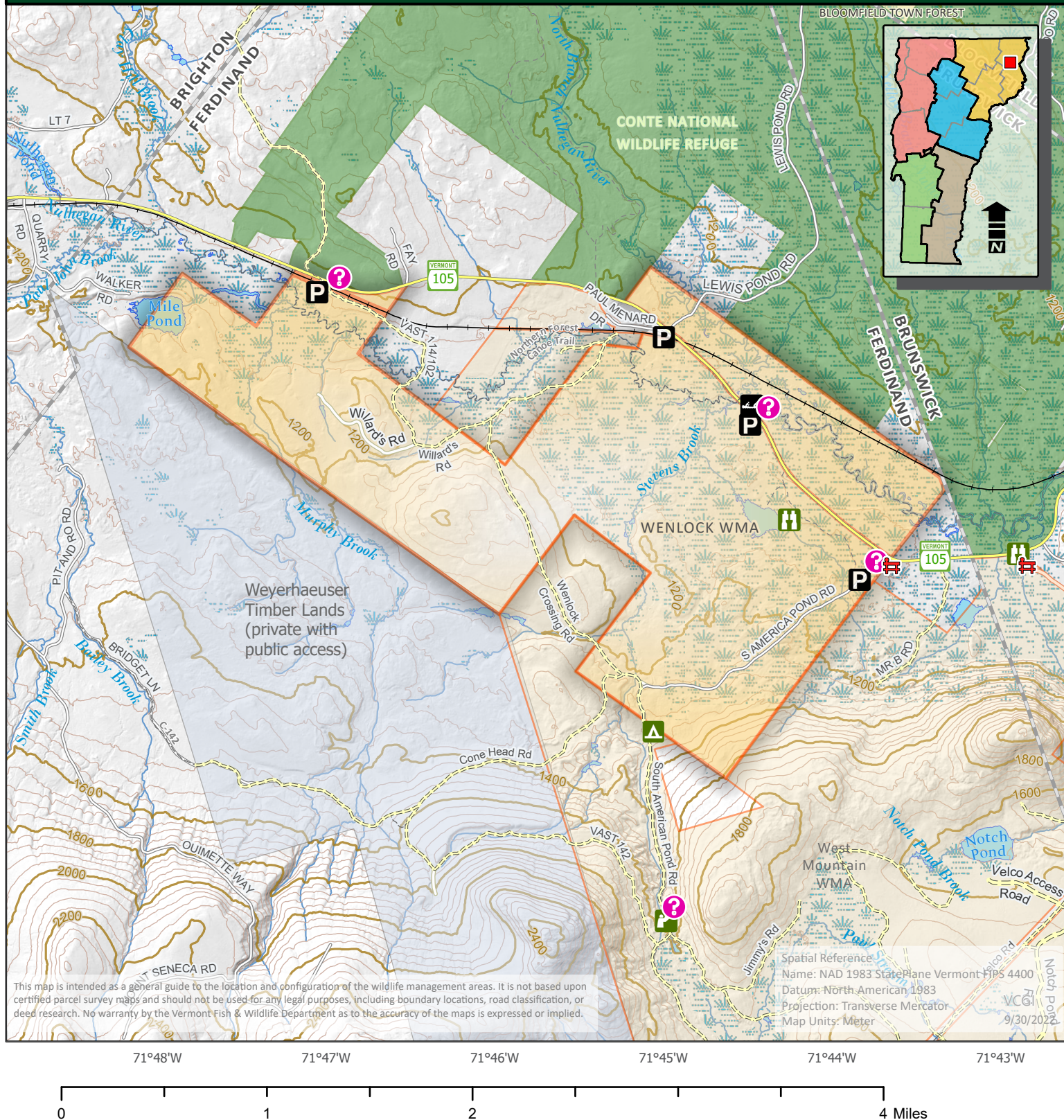
Deer tracks crossing the Nulhegan River.
Cedric Alexander, VTFWD photo

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



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Wenlock Wildlife Management Area



Wenlock WMA

Map Number: 28

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| 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 | |