

Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in the central Vermont towns of Middlesex and Waterbury. The WMA is 627 acres in size. Located on the Middlesex/Waterbury town line, it is bounded by Interstate 89 to the south and Owlshead Mountain to the north. Middlesex contains the largest share of the WMA at 580 acres; 47 acres are in Waterbury. The WMA is owned by the State of Vermont and is managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Access to the WMA is from Exit 9 of Interstate 89, then north on Center Road to Notch Road. There is a developed parking area on Notch Road. Notch Road continues as an unimproved road into Middlesex Notch, east of Owlshead Mountain.

History

Remains of Native American encampments have been found along the Winooski River in the area of the WMA. From these riverside encampments, the people went into the adjacent hillsides to hunt and forage. This may be especially true for the area encompassing Middlesex Notch WMA since it contains the most red oak in the region, thereby providing mast for game species.

The WMA was acquired by the State of Vermont in 1998 using Pittman-Robertson Program funds. The Pittman-Robertson Program, also known as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, is a federal program funded by an 11% excise tax on rifles, shotguns, ammunition and archery equipment.

Habitat Features

The WMA lies within the Winooski River watershed. There is a small intermittent stream present in the mid-southern portion of the WMA which drains into the Winooski River. Elevations range from 1,500 feet in the north to 500 feet as the land grades south to I-89. The aspect is generally southwest and the terrain has many undulating ridges and draws.

The property is completely forested with northern hardwoods such as sugar maple, yellow birch and beech, as well as a large red oak component. Of the 627-acre WMA, approximately 200 acres have red oak as the principle overstory species. Due to the concentration of red oak, this area is an important feeding area for a variety of wildlife species, particularly black bears.



Acorns provide food for bears and many other species.
VFWD photo.

Contributing to the land base of contiguous forestland along the Worcester Range and Putnam State Forest, the WMA functions as important habitat for many neo-tropical songbirds and reclusive mammals requiring large forested areas. Middlesex Notch, located north of the WMA, is a unique example of a boreal acidic cliff natural community.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals Game animals include white-tailed deer, black bear, moose, coyote, snowshoe hare, fisher, bobcat and gray squirrel. Expect to find many smaller non-game species as well.

Birds Ruffed grouse and wild turkey can be found on the WMA, as well as songbirds associated with deciduous tree species.

Reptiles and Amphibians Spotted, spring and red-backed salamanders, American toad, green frog, and milk, garter and red-bellied snakes may be found. Other reptiles and amphibians are sure to be found within the wetland complex associated with Middlesex Notch to the north of the WMA.

Fish There are no fishable waters on the WMA.

Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area

627 Acres
1:16,000



Owlshead Mtn
1662 ft

Middlesex Notch

491752

4910752

4909752

Waterbury
Middlesex

P

NOTCH RD

To Middlesex
3.2 Miles

To Exit 10
2.4 Miles

To Rt 100
4 Miles

To Exit 9
0.8 Miles

Winooski River

Middlesex
Moretown

MEAD RD

682643

683643

684643

700

1200

2

89