

# Averys Gore Wildlife Management Area

## General Description

Averys Gore Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in the northern Vermont mountains in the town of Montgomery. The WMA is accessed from a parking area on the west side of Route 118 in Montgomery, near Highland Springs Road. Its 259 acres are forested with red and sugar maple, yellow birch and beech. Averys Gore WMA is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

The WMA borders Atlas Timberland Partnership lands which are open to public hunting, fishing and trapping. These lands are owned and conserved by the Vermont Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. The Partnership practices sustainable logging.

## History

In 1791 several tracts of land around Vermont were granted to Samuel Avery. In the mid 1800's there were about 30 residents on this particular "Avery's Gore". In 1963 the small gore was assimilated into the neighboring towns of Bakersfield and Montgomery. The land comprising the WMA has been used in the past for farming and logging. Almost all of the former fields have grown back to forest.

The State bought the property from the Foster family in 1969. It was bought with Pittman Robertson funds, which are generated from a tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition.

## Habitat Features

Averys Gore WMA is located on a gentle slope rising from the South Branch River. It is part of a much larger tract

of forest that is partly owned by the Atlas Timberland Partnership. It is an upland environment, with a small wet area on the north end.

The WMA is comprised of northern hardwood forest, with mature sugar maple, yellow birch and beech dominating the overstory. Shrub layer plants include striped and mountain maple and witch hobble. Herbaceous plants common to northern hardwood forests are present, such as wood fern, hay-scented fern, Canada mayflower and sarsaparilla.

## Common Fish and Wildlife

**Mammals** Game animals include white-tailed deer, black bear, moose, bobcat, fisher and coyote. There are also many smaller non-game species that dwell within this large tract of forested land.

**Birds** Ruffed grouse occur and may be hunted in season. Also present on the WMA are deciduous forest songbirds such as the black-throated blue warbler, red-eyed vireo, downy and hairy woodpeckers, white-throated sparrow and winter wren.

**Reptiles and Amphibians** Wood frogs, spotted salamanders, red-backed salamanders and gartersnakes might be found on the WMA.

**Fish** The South Branch River on the eastern side of the property contains brook trout.



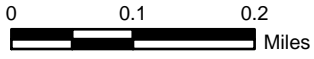
Good moose habitat contains shrubby growth and small balsams for browse.

©Charles Willey photo.

Avery's Gore WMA is open to regulated hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

# Avery's Gore Wildlife Management Area

259 Acres  
1:10,000



Atlas Timberland  
Partnership

To Montgomery  
Center 4.4 Miles

1000



P Picnic Area

1500

1500

South Branch

2000

Montgomery  
Belvidere

118

4964822

4963822

686812

687812

