

# Fred Johnson Wildlife Management Area

## General Information

Fred Johnson Wildlife Management Area (WMA) encompasses 1,172 acres of forested land in the town of Hinesburg. Elevations range from 500 to 1,500 feet. There are two parcels, one on the north side of Hinesburg Hollow Road, and one on the south side of the same road. The road follows Hollow Brook and a small part of the stream bank is included in the WMA. The area north of Hinesburg Hollow Road is on the west side of Lincoln Hill. The area south of the road is also on a hillside that rises out of the Hollow Brook Valley. There is access into the northern parcel of the WMA via a parking area and log road on Lincoln Hill Road. To access the southern parcel one can park at the pullout with the WMA sign on the south side of Hinesburg Hollow Road.

The WMA is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Timber rights are privately held.

## History

At the beginning of the 20th century, most of the land comprising the WMA had been cleared, primarily for pasture. The higher ground reforested some time ago. Some of the remaining fields at lower elevations have grown up more recently into young white pine forest.

State funds generated from hunting licenses were used to purchase the property for the WMA from A. Johnson Lumber Company in 1959. Presently the same company is selectively logging for northern hardwoods.

## Habitat Features

Except for the small stretch of rocky streambank, the Fred Johnson WMA consists of forested upland. There are three types of stands. An eastern hemlock–yellow birch

stand provides the best cover for wintering deer, offering a closed canopy to minimize snow pack. There are some young eastern white pine stands, a few of which were planted, with inclusions of planted red pine and a scattering of more mature white pine. There are also white pines growing in abandoned pasture, with various young hardwoods mixed in. The hardwoods would eventually become dominant and crowd out the pines without silvicultural intervention.

## Common Fish and Wildlife

**Mammals** Besides white-tailed deer, this forested tract offers shelter and food to many forest mammals. Game species include black bear, moose, fisher, bobcat, coyote, fox, cottontail rabbit, raccoon and gray squirrel. Non-game species one may find are skunk, opossum, porcupine, flying squirrel, chipmunk, vole species and shrew species.

**Birds** The WMA is home to forest and edge-dwelling birds including several warbler species, red-eyed and blue-headed vireos, wood and hermit thrushes, woodpecker species and forest raptors. American woodcock, ruffed grouse and wild turkey may also be found and hunted in season.

**Reptiles and Amphibians** Salamanders that may occur in the WMA are eastern newt and red-backed, Jefferson's, blue-spotted, northern two-lined and northern dusky salamanders. The gray tree frog, American toad and wood frog may be found, especially where there are vernal pools for spring breeding. Garter, milk and brown snakes may also be encountered.

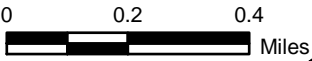
**Fish** There are no fishable waters on this WMA.



Red foxes are adaptable and utilize a variety of habitats. ©Jupiter Images 2004.

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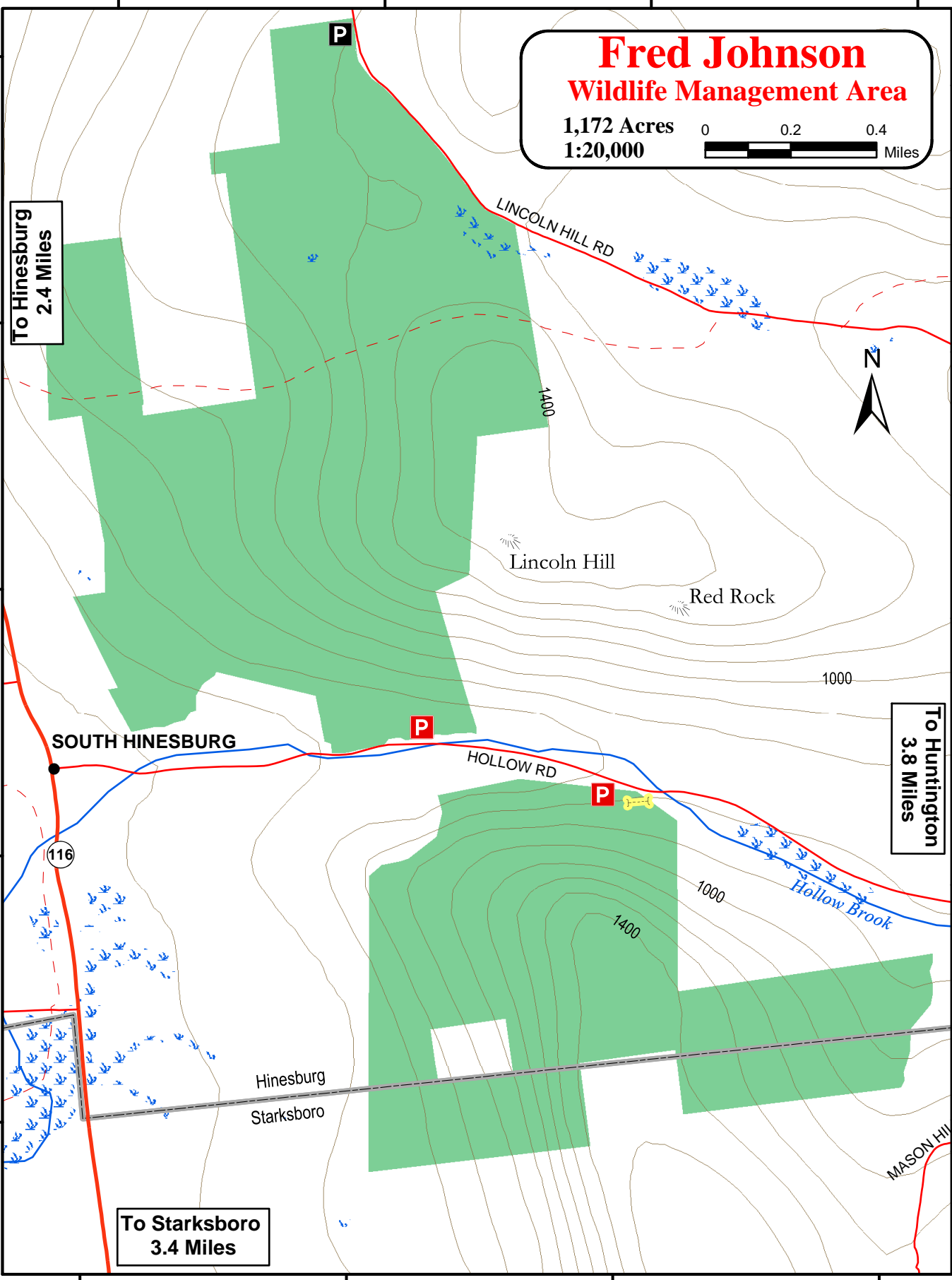
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1:20,000



To Hinesburg  
2.4 Miles

To Huntington  
3.8 Miles

To Starksboro  
3.4 Miles



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