

Huntington Gap Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Huntington Gap Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 1,568-acre parcel located in the towns of Huntington, Buels Gore and Fayston. It is adjacent to Camel's Hump State Park. It lies mainly on the west side of the main range of the Green Mountains between Burnt Rock Mountain and Molly Stark Mountain, including a low saddle known as Huntington Gap. The Long Trail, Catamount Trail and a VAST snowmobile trail cross portions of the WMA. The WMA is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Timber rights on most of the WMA are owned by A. Johnson Lumber Company.

History

The lower elevations of the WMA once were farmed, but mainly this area was used for logging after European settlement. There was a road through Huntington Gap which connected Huntington with Fayston and Waitsfield. This road is still used and maintained by snowmobilers, but is closed to wheeled traffic.

The State of Vermont acquired most of the land from Frances Dutton in 1964. State funds generated from the sale of hunting licenses financed the earlier purchases.

The Phillips parcel was added in 2000, which connects Huntington Gap WMA with Lewis Creek WMA, forming a large contiguous tract of public land. Federal Pittman-Robertson funds, which are generated from a tax on firearms and ammunition, were used for this parcel.

Habitat Features

The WMA is completely forested. Elevations vary from 1,800 to 2,800 feet. Baker's Brook flows through the southwest section of the property. The WMA supports a mix of northern hardwood forest and transitional yellow birch-red spruce forest. Red and sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, hemlock, red spruce, balsam fir and mountain paper birch are common tree species.



Beechnuts are a major food source for bear and other species. VFWD photo.

Shrub species include hobblebush, striped and mountain maples, red-berried elderberry and mountain ash. Over 50 kinds of herbaceous species – including blue cohosh, wild sarsaparilla, mountain aster, Canada-violet, sweet cicely, dogberry, red trillium wood-nettle, foam flower, twisted-stalk, wild lily-of-the-valley and wood-sorrel occur here. Some of the ferns on the WMA are spinulose wood-fern and rattlesnake, Christmas, Braun's holly and hay-scented ferns.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals Huntington Gap WMA is part of a much larger forested tract; therefore, there is the opportunity for backcountry experience. There is hunting for large game – moose, white-tailed deer and black bear. There are good stands of beech that support a healthy bear population. Furbearers include coyote, fisher, bobcat, raccoon and mink. Snowshoe hare, masked shrew, deer and white-footed mice, woodland jumping mouse, chipmunk and red squirrel are some of the smaller mammals that can be found.



Bears climb beech trees to get to the beechnuts. VFWD photo.

Birds Ruffed grouse and turkey may be hunted in season. Expect to find forest-interior bird species of both hardwood and mixed hardwood and softwood habitats. Several warblers are present, including black-throated blue warblers, Blackburnian warblers, Canada warblers, and black and white warblers. Woodpeckers of several varieties may be found. Raptors include Cooper's hawks and barred owls. Many other raptor species pass through during migration.

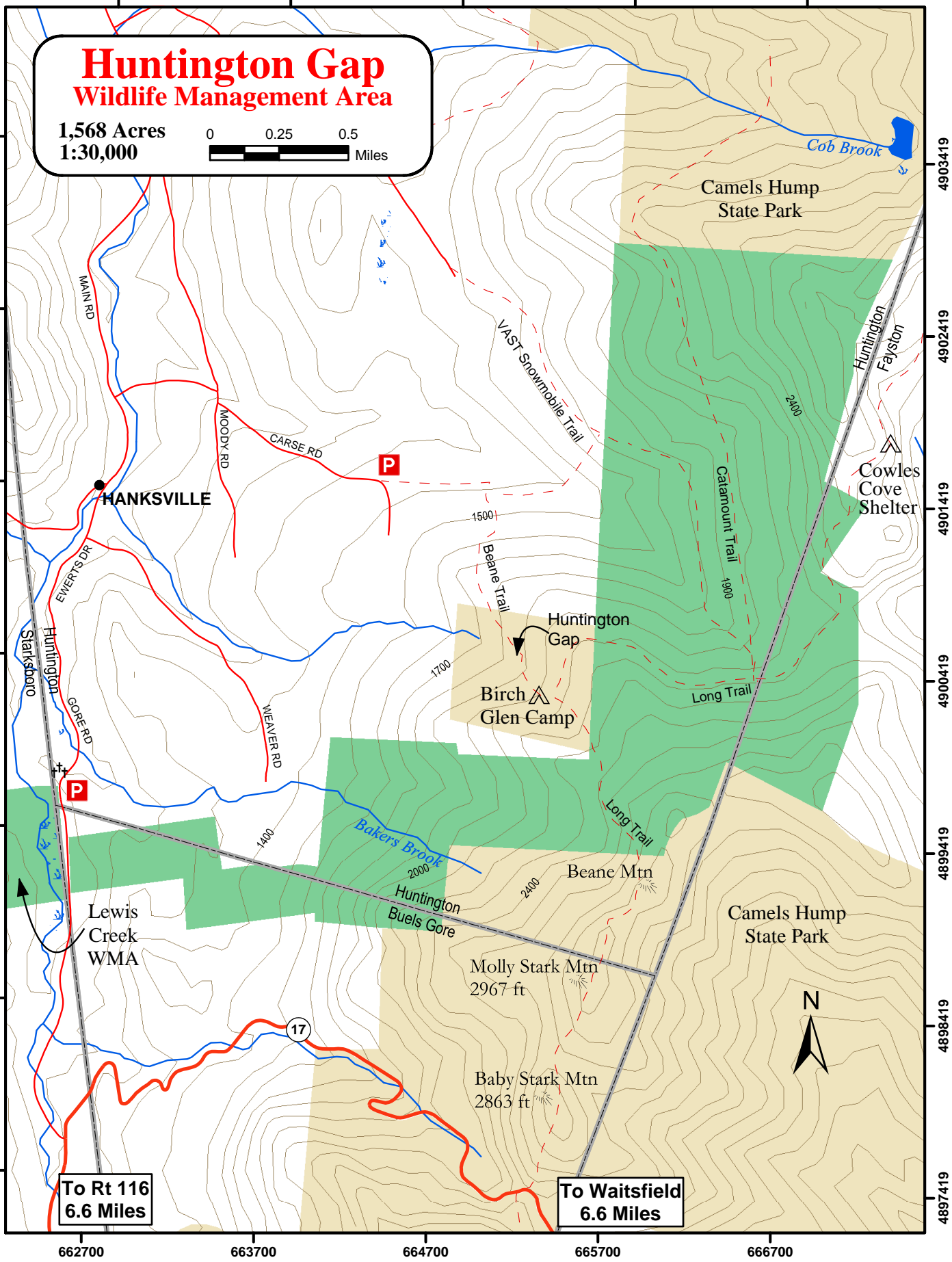
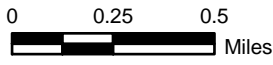
Reptiles and Amphibians Amphibians that may be found on the WMA are eastern newts, red-backed, spotted, northern dusky and spring salamanders, wood frogs, American toads and gray treefrogs. Garter and red-bellied snakes are two reptiles occurring here.

Fish There are brook trout in Baker's Brook.

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

Huntington Gap Wildlife Management Area

1,568 Acres
1:30,000



To Rt 116
6.6 Miles

To Waitsfield
6.6 Miles

662700

663700

664700

665700

666700

4903419

4902419

4901419

4900419

4899419

4898419

4897419