

Buczek Marsh Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Buczek Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 96-acre parcel of land owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. It is located near Lily Pond, 1.6 miles from the town of Poultney. Access to the WMA is a right-of-way footpath off Ferncliff Road.

History

The land comprising the WMA was once farmed. Beavers created the pond after the farmers abandoned it. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department purchased the property from Paul Buczek in 1965. The right-of-way was purchased from Alice Griffith in 1966 to allow public access into the WMA.

Habitat Features

Buczek Marsh WMA is dominated by the 29-acre beaver-created open water marsh. The beaver dam is old and very stable. A beaver baffle water control structure was installed to help maintain flowage at a desired level, which helps reduce flooding and minimizes long-term impacts to nearby property. The stream that drains the pond eventually empties into the Poultney River. The marsh is important for waterfowl, amphibians, and other wildlife.

The marsh is surrounded by forested uplands of hemlock, white ash, red oak, beech, aspen, white pine, maple, birch and some hickory. Eight acres in the northwest corner of the WMA is part of a much larger deer wintering area. The deeryard is made of up eastern hemlock and some scattered white pine.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals The beavers' presence has had an enormous impact on this area. These industrious animals alter their environment, creating wetland habitat that is beneficial to many other species. Minks, muskrats and otters can be found on the WMA, attracted to the area because of the beaver pond.

The WMA's deer wintering area and surrounding forestland is home to white-tailed deer, gray squirrels and other upland mammals.

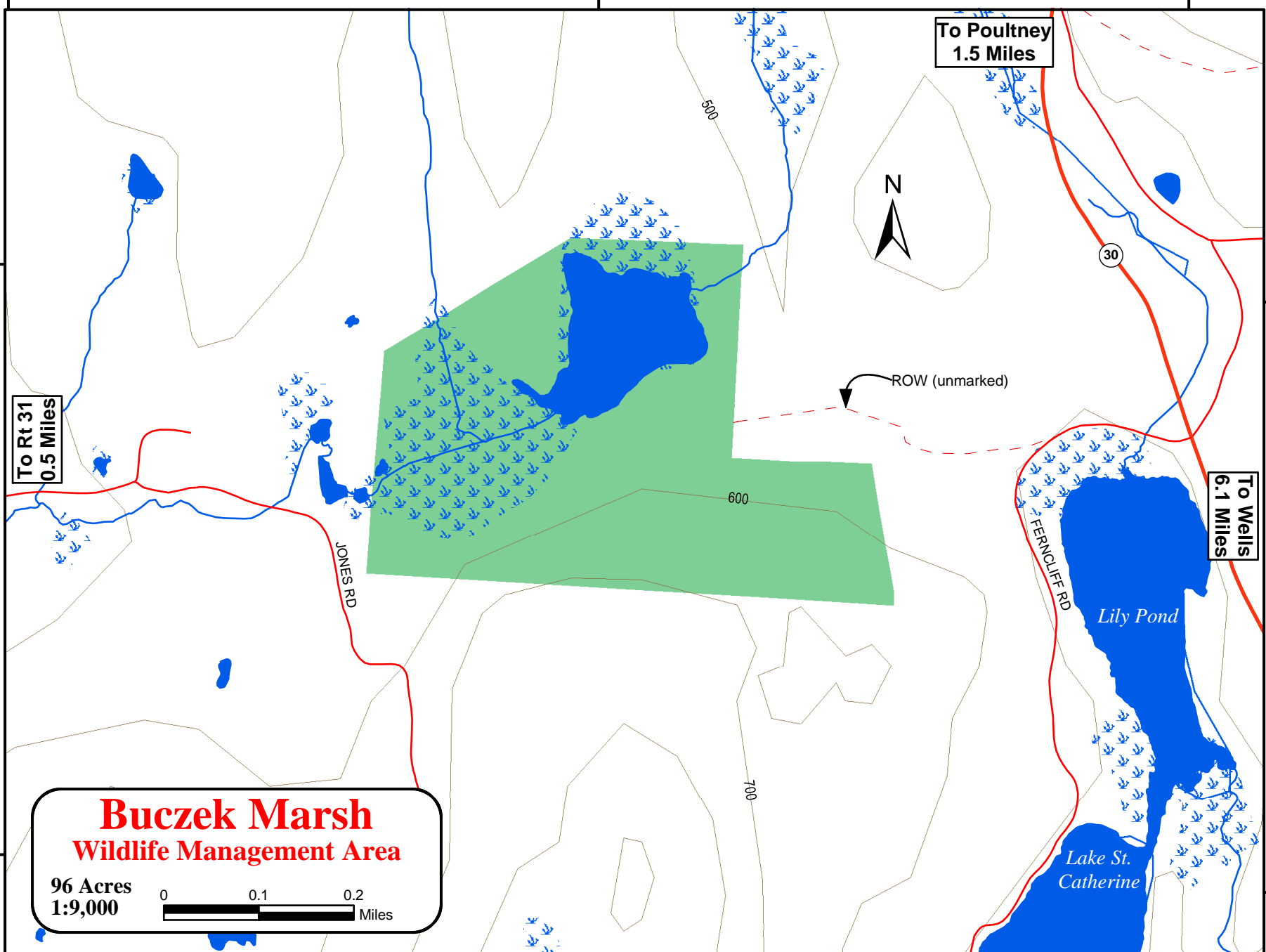
Birds Several species of waterfowl, such as the black duck, wood duck and mallard, use the beaver pond and marsh for feeding, nesting and migratory stopovers. Other marsh-loving birds that might be seen are great blue herons, kingfishers, red-winged blackbirds and eastern kingbirds. Wild turkeys can be found throughout the WMA's forests.

Reptiles and Amphibians The marsh provides good habitat to many species of amphibians and reptiles. In the spring and summer, bullfrogs, green frogs, woodfrogs and spring peepers can be heard calling there. Spotted salamanders and eastern newts are more likely to be seen than heard, but they are also present on the WMA. Gartersnakes and milksnakes are more likely to be found inland, especially near or around stone walls. It is possible to see snapping and painted turtles sunning themselves in the spring and summer.

Fish Brook trout and suckers have been reported in the marsh. However, fish numbers may be limited due to natural winter dieoffs that occasionally occur when a prolonged winter and snow cover deplete the pond of oxygen.



The industrious beaver creates habitat that is used by a number of other species.
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To Rt 31
0.5 Miles

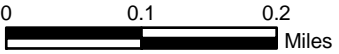
To Poutney
1.5 Miles

To Wells
6.1 Miles

ROW (unmarked)

Buczek Marsh Wildlife Management Area

96 Acres
1:9,000



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