

Tinmouth Channel Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Tinmouth Channel Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 1,148-acre parcel owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The WMA, located in the town of Tinmouth, is comprised of about 450 acres of diverse wetlands, with the balance in forested habitat a few meadows. The channel flows into Clarendon River between East and Otis Roads.

History

The original farmlands surrounding and including the channel were purchased by Hortonia Power Company in 1915 for a hydropower site. The dam was only partially built. The company was taken over by Central Vermont Public Service Corporation in 1929, which also intended to install a hydroelectric station. The idea for the hydroelectric station was finally abandoned due to cost and environmental considerations. The land was sold to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department in 1984 creating the Tinmouth Channel WMA. Federal Pittman-Robertson funds were used, which are generated from a tax on firearms and ammunition.

Habitat Features

Tinmouth Channel WMA provides a variety of habitats that support a multitude of species. The upland forest is a mix of white pine, white cedar, tamarack, red maple, beech, hophornbeam and hemlock. A significant portion of the forested area within this WMA is one of the larger deer wintering areas in the State. It is of very high quality.

The Tinmouth Channel wetland complex is a very diverse and important area. It contains high quality habitat for wildlife and migratory birds including some threatened and endangered species. The wetland contains swamp alders, willows and buttonbrush. Tinmouth Channel has the State's largest and highest quality open intermediate fen. Intermediate fens are peat-accumulating open wetlands that receive mineral enriched groundwater dominated by tall sedges, non-sphagnum mosses, and a sparse to moderate cover of shrubs.



Marshland at Tinmouth Channel WMA. VFWD photo.

The Tinmouth Channel wetland complex was upgraded in 2001 to a Class I wetland, which affords it the State's highest protection. This is one of only three wetlands in the State to receive a Class I designation. The other two Class I wetlands are Dorset Marsh in Dorset and North Shore Wetland in Burlington.

Common Fish and Wildlife

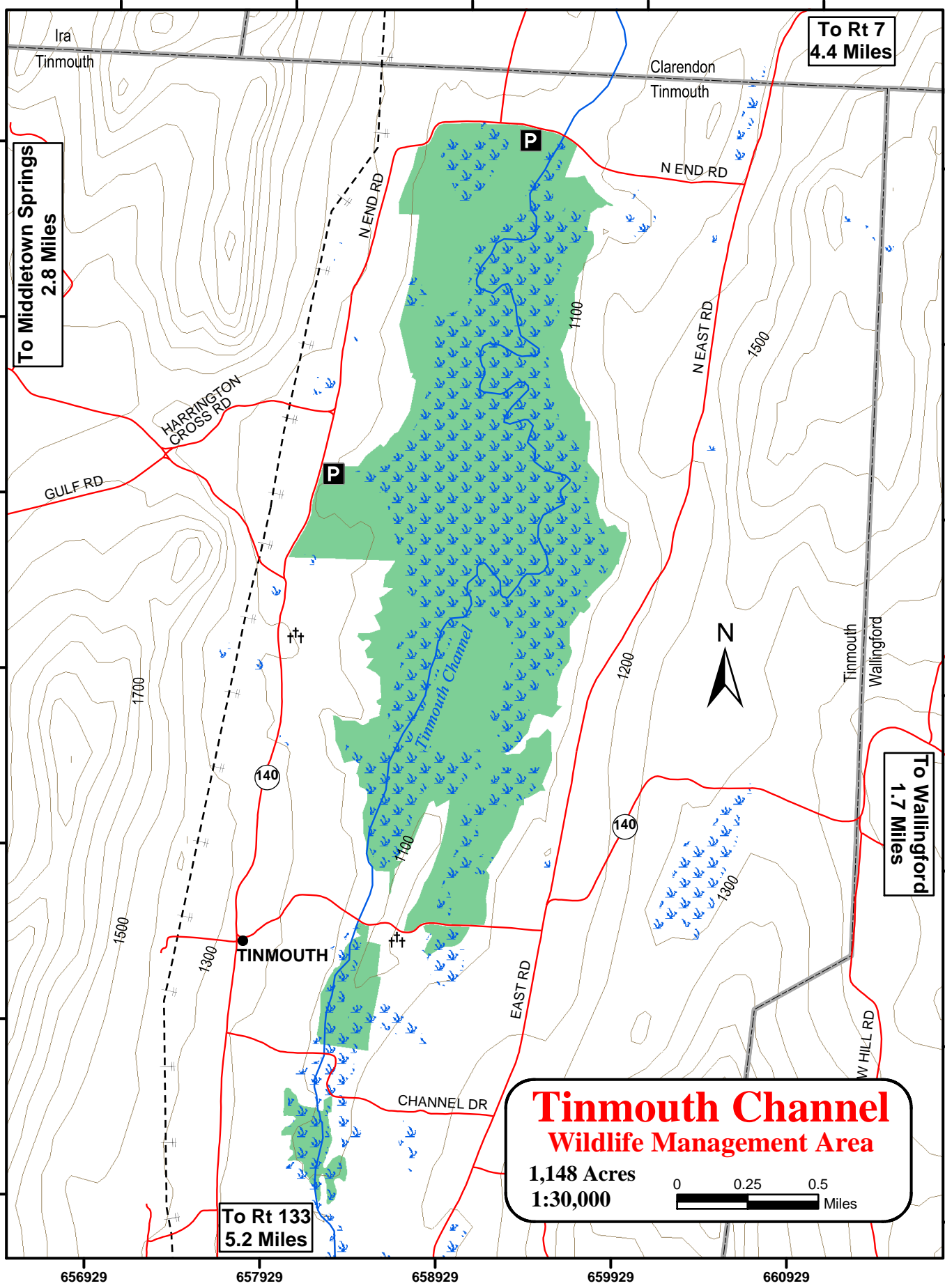
Mammals White-tailed deer are abundant, given the small amount of good wintering habitat available. Bobcats can be found in the woods and occasionally foraging along the banks. Fishers, black bears and coyotes also inhabit the area but their sign is more likely to be seen than the animals themselves. Snowshoe hares and raccoons can be found in the wooded areas. This habitat may also be used by meadow voles and masked shrews.

Moose can be seen browsing in the wetland and shoreline woods. A safe distance is recommended when viewing these large and majestic mammals. Beavers and muskrats can be found throughout the wetland complex, while mink are more associated with brooks.

Birds Tinmouth Channel is considered an Important Birding Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society. The wetland has ideal habitat for breeding waterfowl and is a resting area for migratory birds. The Class I protection gives this WMA a 300-foot buffer zone, which is important to sensitive species such as herons and rails. Tinmouth Channel WMA provides a great opportunity to see both wetland and forest-dwelling species. *Check out our birding list to see how many species you can find in this WMA.*

Reptiles and Amphibians Spotted, Jefferson and blue-spotted hybrids, northern dusky, northern two-lined and eastern red-backed salamanders, and eastern newts are some of the salamander species located in this WMA. American toads, spring peepers, gray tree, wood, green, bull and pickerel frogs can be seen or heard in the area. More elusive reptiles such as milk, ring-necked and common garter snakes also inhabit the WMA. Snapping and painted turtles might be seen basking on fallen logs.

Fish The channel, with its diverse aquatic vegetation, is good habitat for fish and other aquatic fauna. This optimal habitat provides food, cover and nursery areas for several species of fish. Brook and brown trout are the two popular game fish, but there are also creek chub, common shiner, blacknose, redbelly and longnose dace, and common white suckers.



To Rt 7
4.4 Miles

To Middletown Springs
2.8 Miles

To Wallingford
1.7 Miles

To Rt 133
5.2 Miles

Tinmouth Channel
Wildlife Management Area
1,148 Acres
1:30,000

