

White River Wildlife Management Area

General Description

White River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 624-acre parcel located in the town of Sharon, Vermont. It is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The Department does not own the timber rights on most of the property.

The White River forms parts of the eastern and northern borders. Route 14 provides access along the eastern edge of the WMA. Billings Hill is at the northwest corner.

History

The property was acquired in stages using a variety of revenue sources, therefore, the purposes of ownership vary. Some of these are access for hunting, protection of the White River and access to the River by fishermen. The original purchase of 325 acres was in 1961 from Ken Webster who retained the timber rights on the entire parcel. In 1970, 129 acres were purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funds to provide access to the river. Wilfred and Hiram Moore donated an additional 170 acres in 1976. The Moores retained the mineral rights on the entire 170-acre parcel, as well as timber rights on 85 acres.

Habitat Features

The topography of the White River WMA is hilly and mountainous with elevations ranging from approximately 320 feet along the White River to approximately 1150 feet near Billings Hill. The higher elevation areas are precipitous and ledgy. A portion of the White River flows through the WMA, and a picturesque brook flows in an easterly direction through the central portion. A deer wintering area can be found on the southeast slope of Billings Hill.

The WMA is mostly forested with a mix of red and sugar maple, yellow birch, beech and hemlock.

Rare species include Garber's Sedge (*Carex garberi*) and Muskflower (*Mimulus moschatos*). Sticky False Asphodel (*Tofieldia glutinosa*) occurs nearby along the river.

The river bottomlands are a calcareous riverside seep natural community. A sugar maple–ostrich fern riverine flood plain forest can also be found along the bank of the White River.

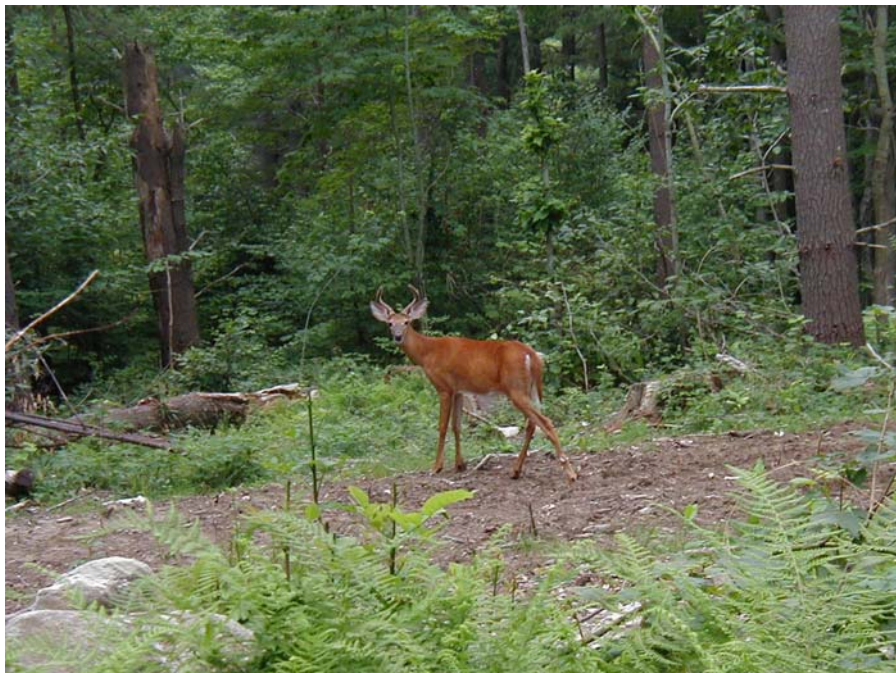
Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals White-tailed deer, gray squirrel, coyote, mink, otter and raccoon may be seen on the WMA. Black bear occasionally pass through the area.

Birds Turkey and ruffed grouse occur and may be hunted in season. Look for kingfishers foraging along the river. State-endangered ospreys have also been seen along the river. A variety of songbirds, both year-round residents and neotropical migrants, can be seen and heard in the forest.

Reptiles and Amphibians Northern two-lined and red-backed salamanders, American toad, gray tree frog and gartersnake occur in the woodland. Visitors may occasionally see painted turtles in the White River.

Fish The White River is a popular fishing venue. Bass, walleye, and brown and rainbow trout all may be caught.



In summer a deer's coat has a distinctive red coloration. Forrest Hammond, VFWD photo.

White River WMA is open to hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

