



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department 2017 Wildlife Management Areas Annual Report

The Mission of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is to **Protect and Conserve** our **Fish, Wildlife, Plants** and their **Habitats** for the **People of Vermont**.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department manages 92 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and numerous riverfront parcels totaling more than 135,000 acres. Management of these areas emphasizes the conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitats, as well as public access for hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife-based activities. A recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey highlights that Vermont ranks second only to Alaska for public participation in fish and wildlife recreation. This report summarizes activities conducted to manage these lands in 2017 (FY17).

Protect and Conserve...

The following activities were conducted to protect and conserve these valuable properties:

- 27 acres received invasive plant control measures
- 25 miles of boundary lines were maintained
- 0.2 mile of fence was installed
- 0.5 mile of fence was maintained
- 8 gates were installed or repaired
- 2 beaver wetland devices were installed/maintained

our Fish, Wildlife, Plants...

- 46 inventories of wildlife, fish, plants, and natural communities were conducted on WMAs by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources staff.

and their Habitats...

The following activities were conducted to enhance wildlife habitat on WMAs statewide:

- 43 dams were maintained to manage 1,744 wetland acres
- 1 mile of trout habitat was enhanced with in-stream trees
- 587 nesting boxes for ducks were maintained
- 3,848 trees were planted to restore river bank habitat
- 98 wild fruit and nut trees were maintained
- 87 acres of wild fruit and nut trees were maintained
- 9 acres of herbaceous forage were planted

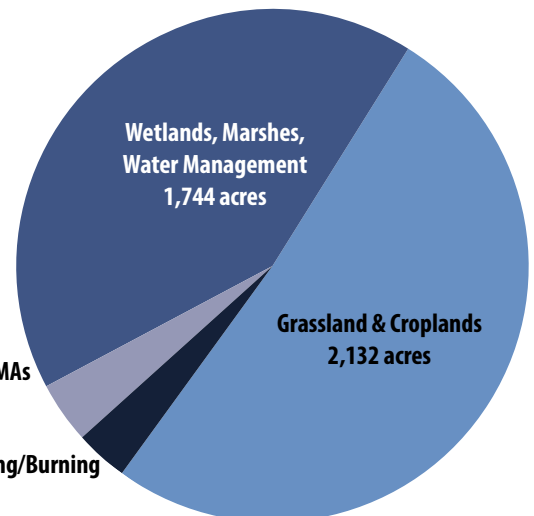
Timber Harvested on WMAs
164 acres

Old Field & Shrubs Mowing/Burning
148 acres



A platform installed at Moose Bog in Wenlock WMA protects the fragile wetland and improves access to view northern forest birds and unique bog plants.

4,188 Acres of Habitat Managed





...for the People of Vermont.

Maintaining facilities and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and signs is essential to achieve the habitat management and public use goals of each area. The following activities were conducted to improve Vermonters' experience when visiting the state's WMAs:

SIGNAGE

- **23** information kiosks were maintained
- **1** entrance sign was installed

FACILITIES

- **1** building was maintained
- **15** parking areas were maintained

PLANNING

- **10** press releases and articles were published
- **3** public planning events were hosted

ACCESS

- **2** trail miles were maintained
- **5** bridges/culverts were installed
- **5** new parking areas were constructed
- **6** miles of roads were maintained
- **2** WMAs hosted field study courses for educators, college and high school students

Other program activities benefiting all Vermonters include:

HABITAT STAMP

- Your Vermont Habitat Stamp contributes directly to conserving and improving Vermont Wildlife Management Areas. Everyone can donate! It's easy at our website:



www.vtfishandwildlife.com

LAND ACQUISITION

- The department added **3,272** acres to seven Wildlife Management Areas in 2017. In 2018, the department will have 18 acquisition projects active, ranging from a 7 acre inholding in a WMA to a 225 acre parcel that will help protect a significant wildlife corridor between the Worcester Mountain Range and the Northeast Kingdom.

| Wildlife Habitat Timber Harvests on Department Lands Fiscal Year 2013-2017 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 5 YEAR TOTALS |
| Fee acres harvested | 296 | 156 | 149 | 171 | 164 | 936 |
| Board Feet (MBF) | 574 | 322 | 274 | 571 | 225 | 1,966 |
| Cords | 2,488 | 1,632 | 1,109 | 2,304 | 1,589 | 9,122 |
| Non-fee acres harvested | 350 | 150 | 250 | 500 | 0 | 1,250 |
| # Active Timber Harvests | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | N/A |

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Most of the programs described in this report are funded through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. Excise taxes paid by hunters on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, coupled with state hunting license fees, have helped the department acquire land, and restore and manage wildlife.

The Ruffed Grouse Society, Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation Department provided financial assistance for habitat management on WMAs in 2017.

