



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department 2018 Lands 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 (VFWD) manages 99 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and numerous riverfront parcels totaling more than 145,000 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 2018.

Protect and Conserve...

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

- **43** acres received invasive plant control measures
- **27** miles of boundary lines were maintained
- **10** acres were treated to improve timber quality
- **10** beaver wetland devices were installed/maintained

our Fish, Wildlife, Plants...

- **104** inventories of wildlife, fish, plants, and natural communities were conducted on VFWD lands by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources staff.

and their Habitats...

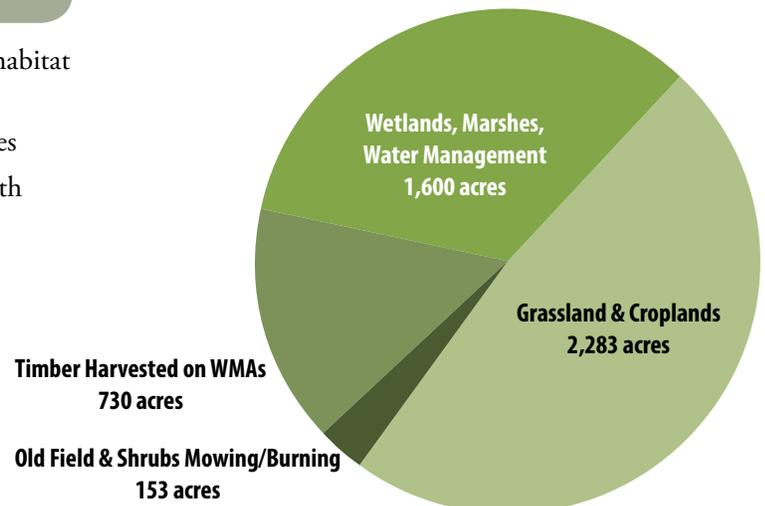
The following activities were conducted to enhance wildlife habitat on VFWD lands statewide:

- **49** dams were maintained to manage 1,600 wetland acres
- **10** acres of winter deer cover thinned to accelerate growth
- **551** nesting boxes for ducks were maintained
- **1,950** trees were planted to restore river bank habitat
- **330** wild fruit and nut trees were maintained
- **10** acres of wild orchard fruit and nut trees were maintained
- **1** osprey nest platform was installed



In 2018, the department and conservation partners held a celebration to recognize acquisition of the newest wildlife management area, 849-acre Windsor Grasslands added in 2017.

4,766 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 VFWD lands. The following activities were conducted to improve Vermonters' experience when visiting the properties:

SIGNAGE

- **29** information kiosks were maintained
- **2** entrance signs and **1** kiosk were installed

FACILITIES

- **7** building were maintained
- **30** parking areas were maintained

PLANNING

- **27** articles published and/or public events hosted
- **6** public planning events were hosted
- **1** Long Range Management Plan was completed

ACCESS

- **3** miles of trails were maintained
- **5** bridges/culverts were installed
- **2** new parking areas were constructed
- **33** miles of roads were maintained
- **2** WMAs hosted field study courses for educators, college and high school students
- **5** wildlife viewing tours were led by VFWD staff

Other program activities benefiting all Vermonters include:

HABITAT STAMP

- Your Vermont Habitat Stamp contributes directly to conserving and improving Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department lands. Everyone can donate! It's easy at our website: www.vtfishandwildlife.com/vthabitatstamp



LAND ACQUISITION

- The VFWD added **424** acres to six WMAs and one riverfront parcel in 2018. A 225-acre parcel was purchased to help protect a significant wildlife corridor between the Worcester Mountain Range and the Northeast Kingdom. In 2019 the department will have approximately 30 acquisition projects active.

| Wildlife Habitat Timber Harvests on Department Lands State Fiscal Years 2014-2018 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 5 YEAR TOTALS |
| Fee acres harvested | 156 | 149 | 171 | 164 | 155 | 795 |
| Board Feet (MBF) | 322 | 274 | 571 | 225 | 304 | 1,696 |
| Cords | 1,632 | 1,109 | 2,304 | 1,589 | 718 | 7,352 |
| Non-fee acres harvested | 150 | 250 | 500 | 0 | 575 | 1,475 |
| # Active Timber Harvests | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 8 | N/A |

PROGRAM PARTNERS

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

The Ruffed Grouse Society; Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy; National Wild Turkey Federation; VT Forests, Parks, and Recreation Department; Friends of the Winooski River; and The White River Partnership provided financial or volunteer assistance for habitat management on VFWD lands in 2018.

