

# Tiny Pond Wildlife Management Area

## General Description

Tiny Pond Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 739-acre parcel owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The majority of the WMA, 517 acres, is located in the town of Ludlow; there are 174 acres in Plymouth and 48 acres in Mount Holly. The WMA can be accessed from Route 100 which runs close to its eastern side. Tiny Pond WMA is part of the Coolidge West Management Unit, which includes Coolidge State Forest (west of Route 100) and Plymbsbury WMA.

## History

The physical features in the area (the mountain, brook and pond) were originally named "Tinney" after a family that had settled the area, but through mispronunciation came to be called Tiny. In 1996, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department acquired 498 acres from George Spiegel to form the Tiny Pond WMA. In 2002, 242 acres were added to the WMA using funds from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, which created an excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment.

## Habitat Features

The WMA is known for its scenic beauty. Tiny Mountain is a 2,320-foot peak located in Mount Holly on the northwestern corner of the parcel. Tiny Pond, for which the WMA is named, is a remote and unspoiled lake that covers 30 acres and is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long. It borders the southwestern corner of the WMA and has no road access or development. Please be careful not to transport any invasive plants, such as milfoil, into the pond. Tiny Brook is a beautiful cascading brook that drains the pond and traverses the WMA. There are marshlands associated with the pond and brook.



Wetland edge at Tiny Pond. Lisa Thornton, VFPRD photo.

The area is forested primarily with northern hardwoods, such as red and sugar maple, yellow birch, and beech. There are also red spruce-northern hardwood forests and red spruce-hemlock forests on the property.

Vernal pools are good places for spotting amphibians. They can be found in the forest during the spring and early summer.

## Common Fish and Wildlife

**Mammals** Tiny Pond WMA is a component of the Coolidge West Management Unit that acts as a landscape linkage for black bears between the north and south sections of the Green Mountain National Forest. Bear tracks can be found in the area and a visitor might be lucky enough to see a bear passing through. White-tailed deer, coyotes, gray foxes and raccoons are more likely to be seen in the hardwood forests. Fishers, bobcats and snowshoe hares prefer mixed or softwood habitat.

Tiny Pond is a natural pond, but periodic beaver activity can change the water level. Moose visit the marshes at the edge of the pond in summer where they feed on aquatic vegetation. Otters favor the pond or brook, while mink prefer the brook or smaller feeder streams.

**Birds** The pond and forests are a good place to see a variety of bird species from songbirds to waterfowl. Tiny Pond is sometimes visited by waterfowl such as black, wood and mallard ducks. Herons and red-winged blackbirds can be seen in the marsh. The common loon, which is a State-endangered species, has been observed here. Loons are sensitive to disturbance so please keep a respectful distance.

The hardwood forest contains pileated woodpeckers, northern flickers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, red-eyed vireos, black-and-white warblers, and American redstarts. The distinct call of the barred owl might be heard in the red spruce-hemlock forests. Cedar waxwings, chestnut-sided warblers, brown thrashers and gray catbirds are found along the forest edge. Ruffed grouse and woodcock are present on the WMA in limited numbers. Red-tailed hawks may be seen soaring in the area.

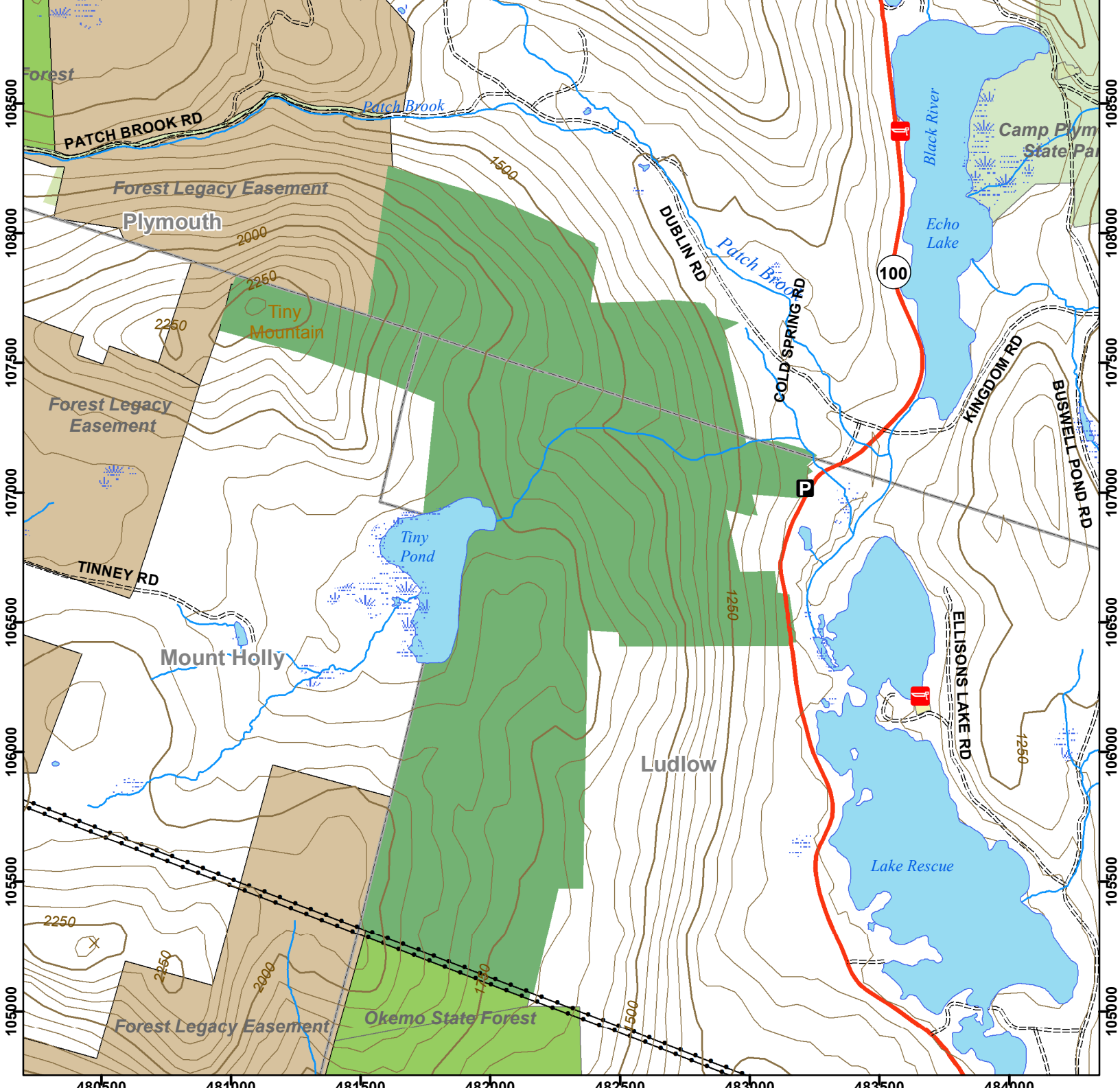
**Reptiles and Amphibians** Tiny Pond WMA provides a variety of habitats for reptiles and amphibians ranging from a vernal pool, large pond, marsh and brook. Spotted salamanders lay eggs in vernal pools in the spring and early summer. Gray treefrogs prefer wooded areas near permanent water, while spring peepers will live near permanent or temporary water. American toads and gartersnakes are located in drier wooded sites. Northern dusky and northern two-lined salamanders are found near wet wooded areas and small streams. Pickerel and green frogs, and painted turtles inhabit Tiny Pond and its associated marsh.

**Fish** Tiny Pond contains only a few species of fish that include common suckers and pickerel.



# Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Tiny Pond Wildlife Management Area

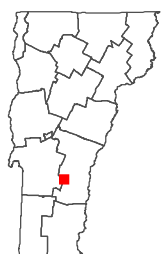
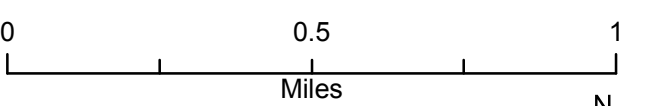
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**Tiny Pond WMA: 739 acres**



- Wildlife Management Area
- Other Public Land
- Private with Public Access
- Wildlife Viewing Areas
- Car-top Access
- Parking
- Boat Ramp
- Gate
- Designated Camp Site During Big Game Seasons Only

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