

Whipstock Hill Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Whipstock Hill Wildlife Management Area is a 425-acre parcel owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Vermont Agency of Transportation purchased the land and transferred it to Fish & Wildlife as mitigation for deer wintering habitat that was lost in the Bennington bypass construction. The parcel is located in the town of Bennington. It can be accessed on the eastern boundary from Walloomsac and Whipstock Roads. Both accesses are undeveloped.

History

Whipstock Hill WMA was acquired in 2008 from the Vermont Agency of Transportation as mitigation for deer wintering habitat lost during construction of the Bennington bypass. The property is adjacent to the New York State border and has a history of iron mining associated with the Burden Iron Works believed to be in operation during the 1860s-70s. Remnants of stone walls throughout the parcel point to an agricultural past as well.

Habitat Features

Whipstock Hill is located in the Taconic Mountains and has a diversity of habitats. This parcel is noted for its deer wintering area and a significant geological feature known as a Wildflysch Conglomerate (rocks with a strong and often folded foliation in a slate or schist matrix surrounding blocks of varying size and rock type). Whipstock wetlands, located along the eastern section of the parcel, comprise 80 acres and are a class two state significant wetland. The forest surrounding the wetlands is dominated by early succession species, unfortunately including a host of exotic species. The upper elevations are less disturbed and dominated by a mature forest consisting of red oak, white oak, sugar maple, red maple, shagbark hickory, and bitternut hickory. Several plantations of mature pine are scattered throughout the parcel.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals The diverse mix of wetland, early succession habitat and mature hardwood forest provides excellent habitat for an array of mammals including bobcat, coyote, bear, otter, mink, beaver and weasel.

The early successional forest provides good cover and food for cottontail rabbit, and provides an excellent source of browse for wintering deer. Although this region is not noted for severe winters, if adverse weather does occur the softwood plantations provide cover for deer.

Birds Several species of waterfowl, such as the black duck, wood duck and mallard, use the wetland for feeding, nesting and migratory stopovers. Other marsh loving birds that might be seen are great blue heron, kingfisher, red-winged blackbird and eastern kingbird.

The mature hardwood forest contains ovenbird, hairy and downy woodpecker, red eyed vireo, black throated green warbler and wood thrush just to name a few species. Wild turkey and ruffed grouse can be found throughout the WMA's forests.

Reptiles and Amphibians The 80-acre wetland provides good habitat for many species of amphibians and reptiles. In the spring and summer, bullfrogs, green frogs, woodfrogs, and spring peepers can be heard calling from the marshland. Spotted salamanders and eastern newts are also present on the WMA. It is possible to see snapping and painted turtles sunning themselves in the spring and summer. Water snakes may be seen along the wetland, garter and milk snakes can be found throughout the WMA.

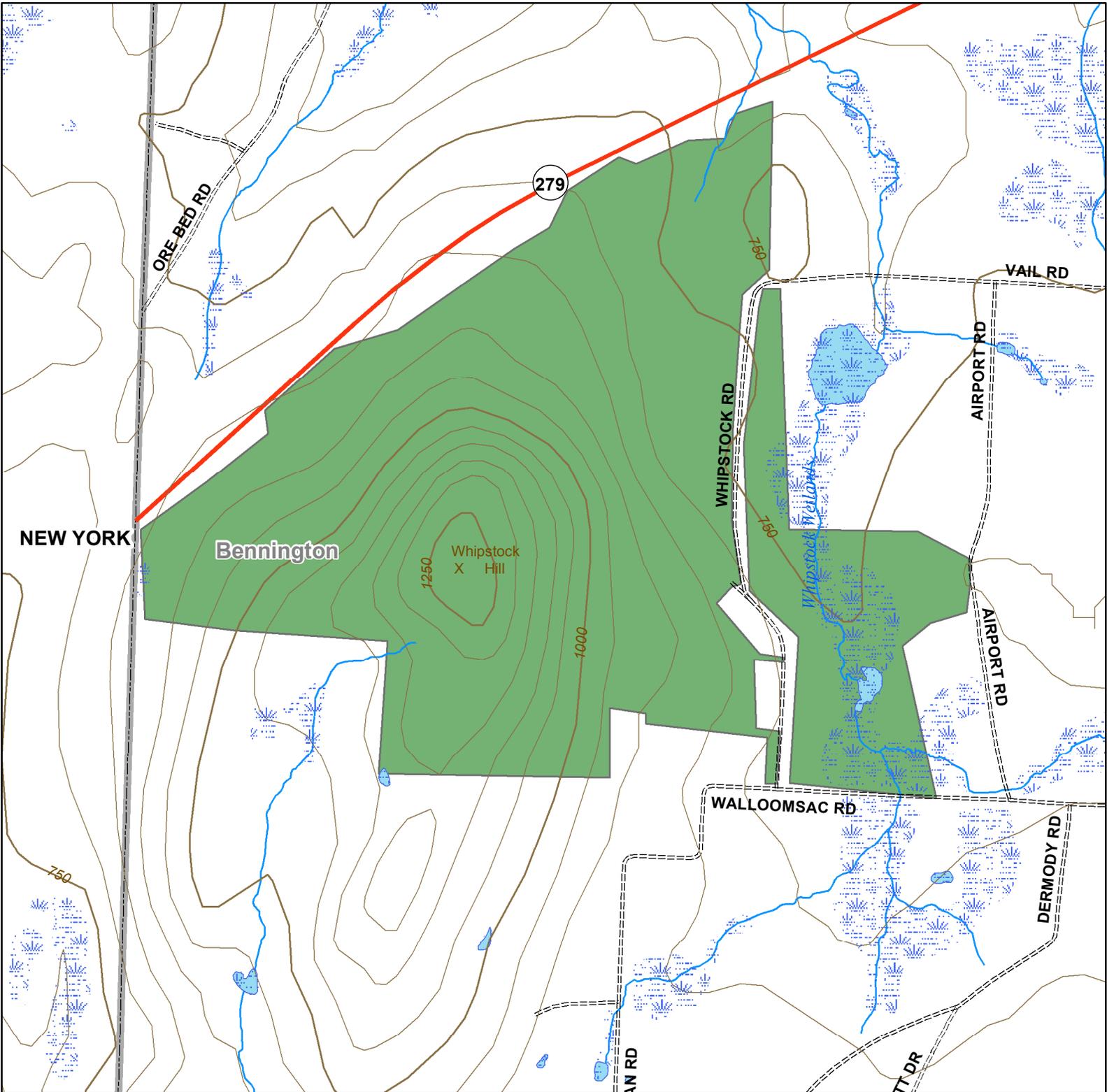
Fish There are no fishable waters on Whipstock Hill WMA.



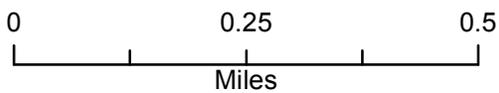
Whipstock Hill WMA's 80-acre wetland provides good habitat for many species of amphibians and reptiles like spotted salamanders.



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Whipstock Hill Wildlife Management Area



Whipstock Hill WMA: 425 acres



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- 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