

Calendar Brook Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Calendar Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 413-acre parcel of land owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The property is located in the town of Sutton in Caledonia County, Vermont, just west of the village of Sutton near the Sheffield-Sutton town line. The access and parking lot for this WMA is located on Union House Road.

History

Although the area is almost entirely forested, old fences indicate that portions of the area were cleared and used for agriculture until the early 20th century.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department purchased 340 acres of Calendar Brook WMA in 1965. An additional 73 acres was purchased in 2000. These lands were purchased with funds from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act. The program is funded by an 11% excise tax on rifles, shotguns, ammunition and archery equipment.

Habitat Features

The WMA takes its name from Calendar Brook, a tributary of the Passumpsic River which flows through the heart of the property. Elevations range from 1,300 to 1,500 feet, and the terrain is moderately sloped to flat. The land is mostly softwood forest, dominated by white and red spruce and balsam fir in the drier uplands, and white cedar in the wetland habitats. The spruce-fir softwood forests provide shelter from deep snow, cold temperature and wind-chill. Adequate winter shelter is critical to the survival and reproduction of white-tailed deer. There are also small amounts of aspen, red maple and yellow birch mixed throughout.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals White-tailed deer travel to the Calendar Brook wintering area from surrounding towns in December. Bear sign is often present at the WMA. Dense softwood thickets provide black bear with travel cover and potential den sites. Spring and summer foods are available in the wetland areas, but virtually no beech trees are present to provide essential *mast* (beechnuts) during the fall. Signs of moose are commonly seen.

Beavers have made their homes and impoundments on Calendar Brook and its small tributaries, creating habitat for mink, otter and other species

Snowshoe hare are common in the younger softwood stands. They are an important food for bobcat, coyote, fox, fisher, owls and other predators.

Birds Ruffed grouse and woodcock can be found on the northern quarter of the property around old field edges, apple trees and alder stands. Many species of warblers common to coniferous forests and field edges can be found at Calendar Brook.

Reptiles and Amphibians Wood frogs and spring peepers may be found in the beaver flowages. Northern ring-necked and northern red-bellied snakes likely inhabit the area.

The northern spring salamander is one of few species that prefer cold streams in spruce-fir forests, so it might reside in Calendar Brook.

Fish Heavy shade provided by the forest canopy keeps Calendar Brook cold, providing good fishing for native brook trout in a remote (off-roadside) setting.

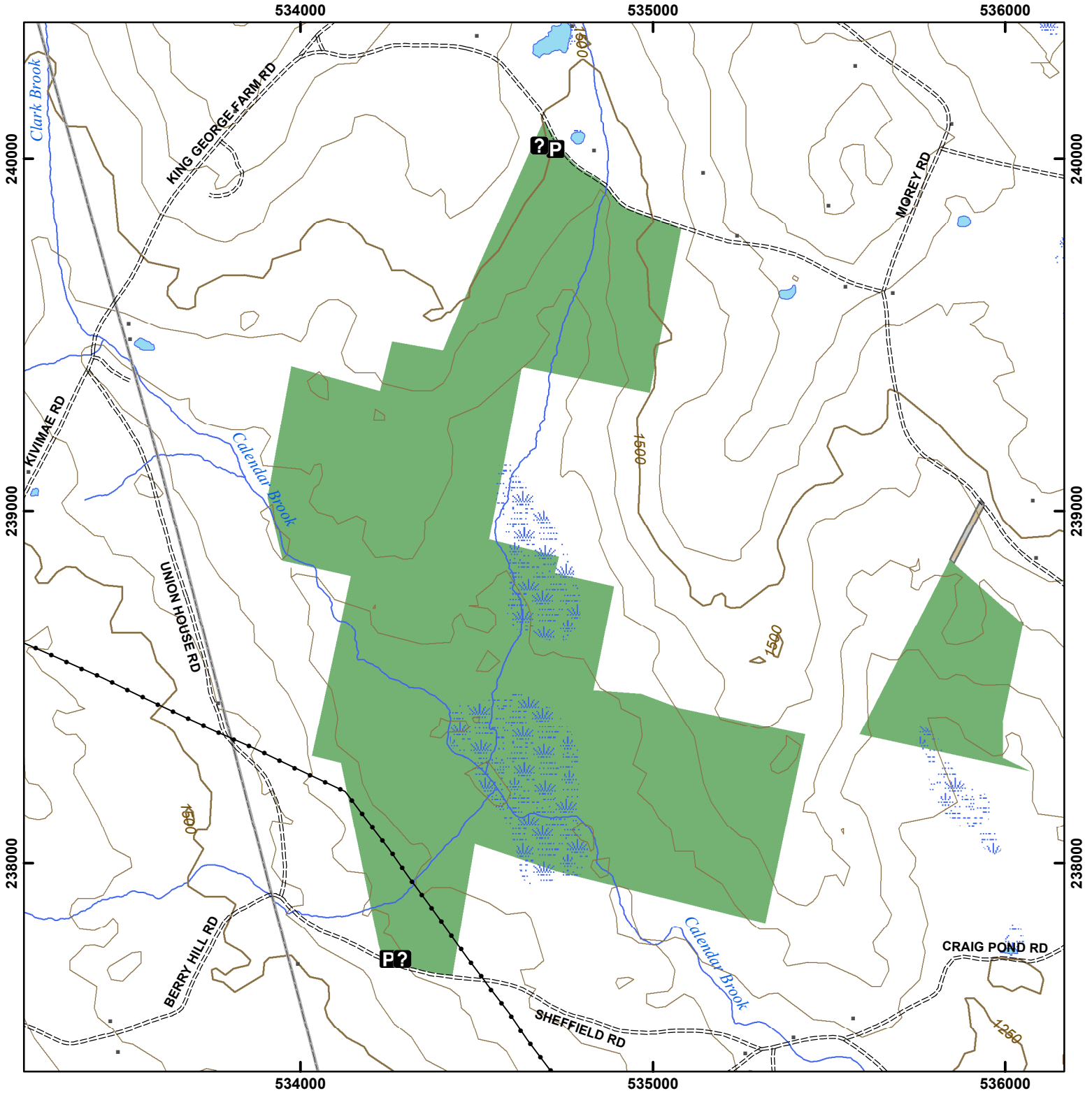


Black bear can be hunted at Calendar Brook and other wildlife management areas.
Bill Byrne, Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Department photo.

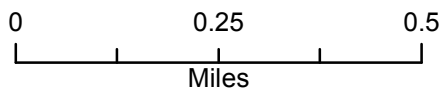
Calendar Brook WMA is open to regulated hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.



Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Calendar Brook Wildlife Management Area



Calendar Brook WMA: 413 acres



- Wildlife Management Area
- Other Public Land
- Private w/Public Access
- Wildlife Viewing Areas
- Car-top Access
- Parking
- Kiosk
- Boat Ramp
- Gate
- Designated camp site during Big Game Seasons only

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