

Hawks Mountain Wildlife Management Area

General Description

Hawks Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in the Southern Green Mountains biophysical region. Its 2,183 acres are owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The previous owners retain the timber rights.

The majority of the WMA is located in southeast Cavendish and a small portion is located in the town of Baltimore. The Black River flows along part of the western boundary and a portion of the northern boundary. Cavendish Gulf Road parallels a portion of the southwest boundary. Access is limited and by foot only. From the south, the property can be accessed from the Cavendish Gulf Road by parking on the shoulder of the road and walking up and over a steep, rocky ridge. From the north, access may be gained by parking in one of several pull-offs along Route 131 and wading across the Black River.



Peregrine falcons, which are State-endangered, nest on cliff faces and prey on other birds. They can dive at 200 miles/hour. ©Jupiter Images 2004.

History

Hawks Mountain, to the south and east of the WMA, is named for Colonel John Hawks, a “Hero of Fort Massachusetts,” and one of the builders of the historic Crown Point Road. He and his men encamped on the side of the mountain that now bears his name.

The land for Hawks Mountain WMA was purchased by the Vermont Fish & Game (now Wildlife) Department in 1959, using money from the sale of hunting licenses. In September of that year, 976 acres were acquired from Marion Schmidt. Later that year an additional 1,207 acres were bought from the Atkinson-Davis Corporation. Both Mrs. Schmidt and the Atkinson-Davis Corporation reserved the timber rights.

Habitat Features

The terrain on the WMA is very steep and rugged, ranging in elevation from approximately 700 feet along the Black River to 1,940 feet on the slopes of Hawks Mountain. Ledge outcrops are common throughout the property and are home to porcupines and bobcats.

The WMA is completely forested with red and sugar maple, yellow birch and beech. Patches of red spruce and red oak are scattered throughout. The entire WMA is considered seasonal bear habitat.

Scapania umbrosa, a liverwort that is very rare in Vermont, has been documented within the WMA. Peregrine falcons have recently been discovered nesting on a cliff near the WMA.

Common Fish and Wildlife

Mammals Game animals include black bear, moose, white-tailed deer, bobcat and fisher. Porcupines, raccoons and other smaller mammals may also be found.

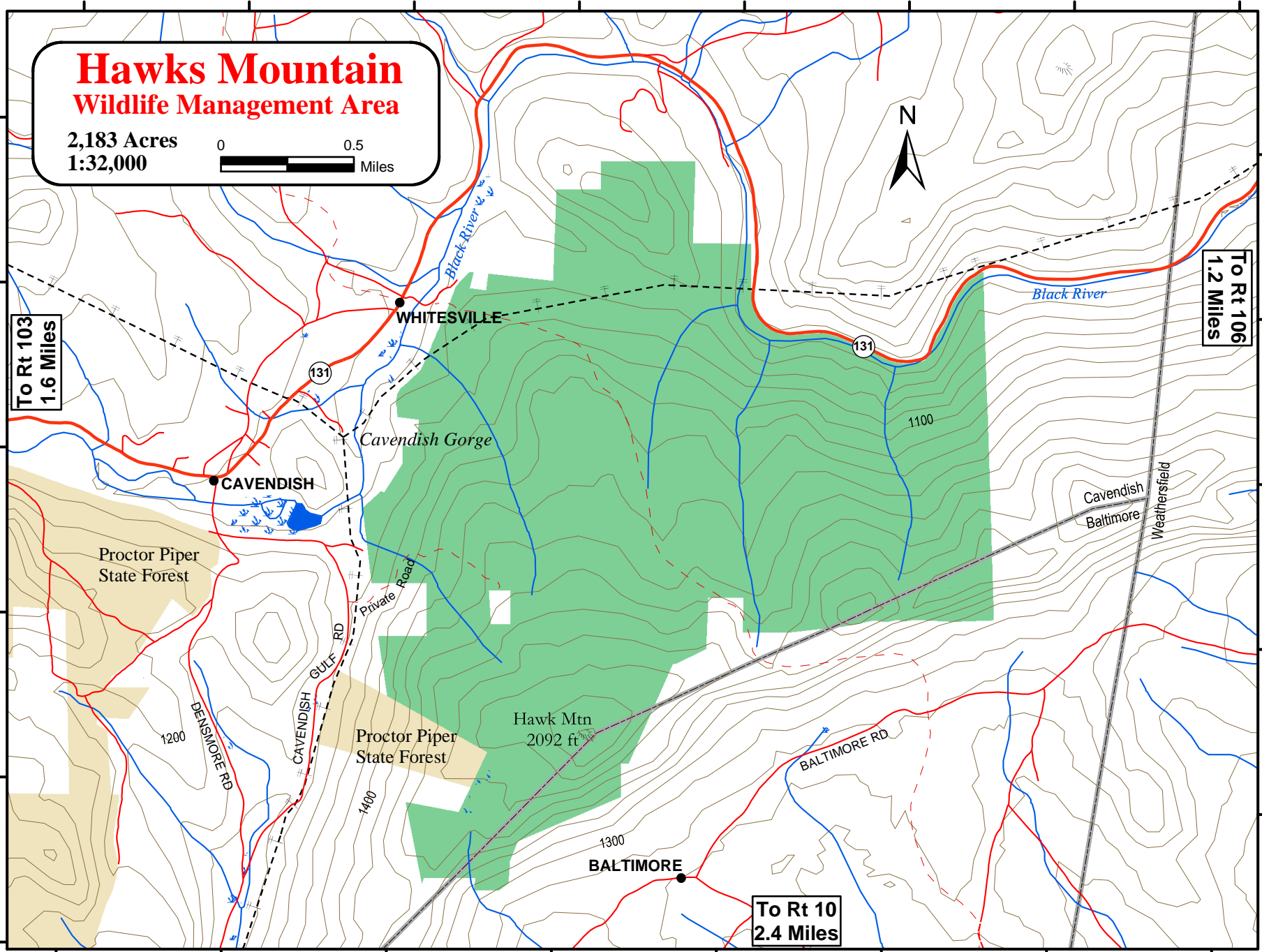
Birds Turkey and ruffed grouse are present and can be hunted in season. Peregrine falcons may be observed flying overhead. Songbirds common to northern hardwood forests may be seen or heard.

Reptiles and Amphibians Newt and spring, northern two-lined and northern red-backed salamanders occur on the WMA. American toad and gray treefrog may be found in the woods, while green and pickerel frogs can be seen near water. Reptiles include northern red-bellied, garter and milk snakes, and wood turtles.

Fish Several small streams flow through the WMA into the Black River and probably contain wild brook trout populations. The section of the Black River that forms the northern boundary of the WMA is stocked annually with trophy-sized brown and rainbow trout.

Hawks Mountain Wildlife Management Area

2,183 Acres
1:32,000



To Rt 103
1.6 Miles

To Rt 106
1.2 Miles

To Rt 10
2.4 Miles

4808174
4807174
4806174
4805174
4804174

692840 693840 694840 695840 696840 697840 698840 699840

Proctor Piper
State Forest

Proctor Piper
State Forest

Hawk Mtn
2092 ft

Cavendish Gorge

WHITESVILLE

CAVENDISH

BALTIMORE

Cavendish
Baltimore

Weatherfield

Private Road

CAVENDISH RD

DENSMORE RD

BALTIMORE RD

GULF RD

1400

1100

131

131

Black River

Black River