



MassWildlife Lands User Guide

Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area

Towns: Montague

Acreage: 1,575

Wildlife Management Zone: 5

Description of property:

This property contains the state's largest inland occurrence of a pitch pine - scrub oak natural community, a fire-adapted community which supports a diversity of rare plants and wildlife and other species of conservation concern. This habitat type occurs on large glacial outwash sandplains of dry, poor soils.

Location/Access/Parking:

The property can be accessed from Hillside Road, Turnpike Road, Turners Falls Road, Plains Road, Lake Pleasant Road, and Old Northfield Road. Multiple pull-offs exist off of Old Northfield Road and Plains Road.

Habitat Management:

This WMA has been highlighted in MassWildlife's Key Sites Initiative. Extensive habitat management efforts have occurred since the acquisition of the property including partial tree clearing and mowing to reduce fuel loads. The use of prescribed fire is also used to maintain the scrubby habitat and to reduce fuel loads to prevent severe forest fires. In addition to benefiting rare species of moths, butterflies, and plants, these habitat management efforts also benefit declining songbirds like the Eastern Towhee, and gamebirds like Ruffed Grouse.

Hunting Opportunities:

This is a pheasant stocked area. Other opportunities exist to hunt for White-tailed Deer, Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Cottontail Rabbit, Raccoon, fox, and Eastern Coyote.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

Due to the extensive pitch pine - scrub oak restoration efforts, this WMA provides great opportunities for wildlife watching. Birders may observe species including Prairie Warbler, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Brown Thrasher. The WMA also supports a wide variety of Lepidoptera (butterflies & moths).

Special WMA Regulations:

During pheasant season, a blaze orange hat must be worn by all hunters except while night-hunting Raccoons or Opossums or while hunting waterfowl from within a blind or boat. No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset during the open season on pheasant, except for the hunting of Raccoons or Opossums between 9:00 P.M. and 3:00 A.M.

Useful Links

[WMA Regulations](#)

[Habitat Program](#)

[Hunting & Fishing](#)

Fishing/Hunting Licenses

Mass.gov/MassFishHunt

Learn more

Mass.gov/MassWildlife

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Get Your Orange On!

All outdoor users are encouraged to wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

Your local MassWildlife office

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