

MassWildlife Lands User Guide

Hinsdale Flats Wildlife Management Area

Towns: Hinsdale, Washington

Acreage: 1,379

Wildlife Management Zone: 2

Description of property:

Most of this WMA is level to gently sloping bottomland surrounding the headwaters of the East Branch of the Housatonic River and several of its tributaries. The portions of the WMA surrounding the East Branch, Cady Brook, and Bennett Brook are large swamps dominated by grasses, sedges, and shrubs. The forested areas are predominately spruce-fir-maple swamps which gradually become drier as one heads upslope away from the brooks. The upland areas also contain some white pine/northern hardwood forests. The WMA contains some remnant agricultural fields which are now a mix of grassland and shrubland. Bullard's Crossing Road area also has a long abandoned former apple orchard and blueberry plantation. The Southern end of the WMA abuts Muddy Pond which is a small shallow pond on the Hinsdale/Washington town line.

Location/Access/Parking:

The WMA is located south of the center of Hinsdale and east of Route 8. There are three primary parking areas including a gate at the end of a dirt drive on Middlefield Road, 1/3 mile east of Route 8. This parking area is usually only open during the spring turkey and fall hunting seasons. The second parking area is in a field just west of the intersection of Middlefield and Fassell Roads. The third formal parking area is on the north side of Bullard's Crossing Road, near an old home site. Other sections of the WMA are accessible via roadside parking along Creamery Road, Bullard's Crossing Road, Buttermilk Road, and East Washington Road.

Habitat Management:

The open areas accessed from Middlefield Road and Bullard's Crossing Road are annually pattern-mowed to keep them in grassland/shrubland and as pheasant cover. The fields adjacent to Route 8 are mowed annually for grassland habitats.

Hunting Opportunities:

Ring-necked Pheasants are stocked in the sections of the WMA near the three formal parking areas. The shrub and wooded swamps provide good American Woodcock habitat. White-tailed Deer and Black Bear can be found throughout the WMA. There are some duck hunting opportunities along the East Branch of the Housatonic River and on Muddy Pond.

Fishing Opportunities:

Cady Brook and Bennett Brook provide fishing opportunities for native Brook Trout. Bennett Brook also contains reproducing Brown Trout and is annually stocked in the spring with trout. The East Branch of the Housatonic River provides fishing opportunities for warmwater species, native Brook Trout, and reproducing Brown Trout and is annually stocked in the spring with trout. Go to [Mass.gov/Trout](https://www.mass.gov/trout) for more information.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

The Housatonic River can be canoed or kayaked from Bullard's Crossing Road downstream to the center of Hinsdale. Access is informal, and this river section usually contains several beaver dams, some of which require short portages. Paddling upstream from Bullard's Crossing Road to Muddy Pond is a more difficult route, but it is possible when water levels and beaver activity allow. On either side of Middlefield Road stretches a rich conifer swamp, an uncommon type of natural community. The wetlands along the river and its tributaries harbor uncommon marsh birds.

Special WMA Regulations:

During the pheasant season, a "hunter orange" hat is required for all hunters and hunting hours are sunrise to sunset unless night hunting for Raccoons or Opossums.



Useful Links:

[WMA Regulations](#)

[Habitat Program](#)

[Hunting & Fishing](#)

Fishing/Hunting Licenses:

[Mass.gov/MassFishHunt](https://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt)

Learn more:

[Mass.gov/MassWildlife](https://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

Connect with us:

[Facebook.com/MassWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/MassWildlife)

Get Your Orange On!

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

MassWildlife

Western District

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