

MassWildlife Lands User Guide

Stafford Hill Wildlife Management Area

Towns: Cheshire

Acreage: 1,440

Wildlife Management Zone: 2

Description of property:

This property consists predominantly of old pastureland with transitional hardwood forest. Historically, the area was an old farm and still contains numerous apple trees throughout as well as agricultural fields which are currently being farmed on Jenks Road. A mixed northern hardwood and softwood forest covers the majority of the upland areas, but there are some steeply sloping fields. Slopes vary from gentle to steep, but there are some nearly flat hilltop areas, as well as a parcel of river bottomland on the South Branch of the Hoosac River accessed from North State Road in Cheshire. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail runs through the western parcel of the WMA. Elevation ranges from 950 to 1,930 feet.

Location/Access/Parking:

There are three parking areas on Stafford Hill Road in Cheshire: one on the northern parcel and two on the southern parcel. There is a town pull-off on Wells Road on the western parcel.

Habitat Management:

Large management timber cuts have been ongoing throughout this WMA to bring it back to shrubland and transitional forest, thus improving upland gamebird habitat. Fields are mowed to create safety zones, access, and cover for upland game. Abandoned orchards are being managed to more successfully produce wildlife food.

Hunting Opportunities:

The transitional hardwood forests and agricultural use areas create excellent Black Bear and White-tailed Deer habitat. The managed timber cuts produced excellent upland game bird opportunities. Pheasants are stocked throughout the WMA. Geese use the agricultural fields as a flyway stopover. There are some opportunities for duck hunting on the western parcel with careful consideration of the rail trail.

Fishing Opportunities:

Trout are stocked in the Hoosac River which flows through the western parcel. The Hoosac River is also a well-known kayak and canoe fishing area. Go to [Mass.gov/Trout](https://www.mass.gov/trout) for more information.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

There are multiple scenic views of Mount Greylock. It is also a great area for birdwatching.

Special WMA Regulations:

During the open 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

88 Old Windsor Road
Dalton, MA
(413)684-1646