



MassWildlife Lands User Guide

Ashby Wildlife Management Area

Town: Ashby

Acreage: 850

Wildlife Management Zone: 5

Description of property:

This property is mostly hilly terrain with variations in elevation of more than 250 feet. Slopes vary from gentle to steep. The northern parcel is composed primarily of marsh and swamp dominated by red maple, buttonbush, cattails, reeds and grass hummocks. The southern parcel is predominantly wooded with a mixed-age forest of white pine, oak, and maple. There are 5 hay fields between 3 and 12 acres within this parcel. The upper reaches of the South Branch of the Souhegan River run through the northern parcel. It is 4-5 feet wide and 3-4 feet deep in this stretch, although extensive beaver activity has created a number of ponds. There is no standing water on the southern parcel, although there are some small, seasonably wet areas.

Location/Access/Parking:

Access to the WMA is possible from Route 119, West Road, and Bennett Road.

Habitat Management:

Five fields are maintained as grassland/agricultural habitat.

Hunting Opportunities:

Waterfowl and furbearers (including River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Raccoon and Beaver) are common in the vicinity of the beaver flowages. Opportunities for hunting White-tailed Deer, Eastern Coyote, fox, Wild Turkey, and squirrels are common in the uplands. Black Bear are occasionally reported. Pheasant are stocked in the open fields bordering the abandoned road (Brooks Lane) that runs from West Street to Pillsbury Road.

Fishing Opportunities:

Wild Brook Trout are present in Bennetts Brook. Fishing is available from the shores of the upper portion of Watatic Pond off of Rt 119 and should be accessed from Pillsbury Road. The south branch of the Souhegan River is stocked with trout and flows along Flint Road. Go to [Mass.gov/Trout](https://www.mass.gov/trout) for more information.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

There are beaver flowages in the northern parcel of the WMA providing viewing opportunities for many species of wildlife inhabiting the flowages. Moose and Black Bear are frequently seen.

Special WMA Regulations:

During the pheasant season, a "hunter orange" hat is required for 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 PM and 3 AM.

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)

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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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