



MassWildlife Lands User Guide

Hubbardston Wildlife Management Area

Towns: Hubbardston

Acreage: 361

Wildlife Management Zone: 5

Description of property:

The Hubbardston WMA is part of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Ware River Watershed and is managed cooperatively. The habitat consists of abandoned fields, apple orchards, mixed hardwoods, beaver wetlands, and Cunningham Pond.

Location/Access/Parking:

There are two main access points with parking, one off of Old Westminster Road and the second off of Route 68. Both are gravel and not maintained in the winter.

Habitat Management:

DCR implemented select cutting and field reclamation around 2005. Early successional growth is transitioning into young forest.

Hunting Opportunities:

The WMA portion of this DCR property is a pheasant-stocked area with birds released at least once per week during the season. The beaver wetlands provide jump shooting opportunities for waterfowl. Areas that were previously cut now provide thick cover for Eastern Cottontails and browse for White-tailed Deer.

Fishing Opportunities:

Cunningham Pond is a shallow impoundment that has been enlarged by American Beavers damming the spillway. It becomes weedy in the summer months but provides good warmwater fishing opportunities for panfish such as Bluegill, Black Crappie, and Yellow Perch through the ice or in the spring. There is no formal boat access but canoes and kayaks may be launched from Old Westminster Road.

Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

This DCR-owned property provides protection for the Ware River watershed, which is used to supplement the Quabbin Reservoir during periods of low water. The thickets and understory provide habitat for songbirds such as Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, and Eastern Towhee. Wood Duck nest boxes are maintained at Cunningham Pond where American Beaver and River Otter may be observed. With good tracking conditions, signs of Fisher, Eastern Coyote, fox, and other mammals may be found.

Special WMA Regulations:

During the Pheasant season, a blaze orange hat must be worn by all hunters except while night-hunting Raccoon or Opossum 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 Raccoon or Opossum between 9:00 P.M. and 3:00 A.M. WMA regulations do not apply to the rest of the watershed lands.

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

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