common today. The Civilian Conservation Corps, encamped near from spruce, fir and pine to red maple and yellow and white birch.

Wells River Railroad that tran through the forest. By the mid 1920's are evidence of glacial activity that occurred more than 10,000 years ago. The forest's cultural history is primarily one of intensive logging, beginning in 1873 with the opening of the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad that ran through the forest. By the mid 1920's most of the timber was cut, leading to the decline the railroad. Several forest fires, especially a severe one in 1903, changed the landscape from a mix of fir, pine and yellow and white birch common today. The Civilian Conservation Corps, encamped near Osmore Pond in the 1930's, reforested some areas with plantations of pine and spruce. Today, Groton State Forest is being managed for multiple uses by the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation to provide sustainable recreation, wildlife, water, and wood products.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS
Trail distances are for one way travel unless otherwise indicated. Numbers correspond to the map.

1. New Discovery Campground to Osmore Pond Trail
0.5 mile, 1/2 hour. Effort Rating: Easy. Trail starts from New Discovery Loop B next to the restroom, and travels downhill passing through a spruce-fir stand on its way to the pond. At the pond, the trail joins the Osmore Pond Hiking Loop. Elevation Change: 1746 feet – 1456 feet.

2. Big Deer Mt. Trail from New Discovery State Park
1.7 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. This trail passes through the forest and climbs to scenic vistas. From New Discovery Loop B, turn left onto the road to Peacham Pond. After 0.3 miles, the trail leaves the road in a red pine plantation. The trail is fairly level for most of its distance, but climbs steeply from trail junction (1.1 miles) to ridgetop. Views include Peacham Pond, Peacham Bog and the White Mts. Elevation Change: 1746 feet – 1992 feet.

3. Osmore Pond Hiking Loop
2 miles, 2 hours. Effort Rating: Easy. This scenic loop begins at the Osmore Pond picnic shelter. The trail veers south, away from the pond's edge. It passes under a power line just before the junction with the Little Deer Trail (0.6 miles). Continuing around the pond, the trail crosses Hosmer Brook and heads north to the trail junction. At the north end of pond, the trail may be wet near the junction with the trail from New Discovery Campground. The trail follows the pond back to the picnic shelter. Elevation Change: 1456 feet – 1477 feet.

4. Owls Head Trail
1.5 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. This hike leads to a scenic vista of Lake Groton, Kettle Pond and the Green Mountains. Trail starts off the road from New Discovery to the Osmore Pond scenic area. Bypassing a swampy area, trail first descends and then climbs to a parking lot. The trail to the top continues to the left, following the rock steps of a path built by the CCC in the 1930’s. Elevation Change: 1746 feet – 1958 feet.

5. Little Deer Trail
0.5 mile, 1/2 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. Trail leaves south end of Osmore Pond Hiking Loop (0.6 miles from shelter). Trail follows a power line for a short distance before heading uphill, steeply at times, to a ridgetop. Views of Lake Groton and surrounding mountains. Elevation Change: 1456 feet – 1760 feet.

6. Big Deer Mt. Trail
0.9 mile from Osmore Pond Hiking Loop, 3/4 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. Starts at the intersection of the Osmore Pond Hiking Loop and Hosmer Brook Trail. Climbs steeply, then descends to a cross area before joining the trail from New Discovery, to ascend to the top for several scenic vistas. Elevation Change: 1456 feet – 1992 feet.

7. Hosmer Brook Trail
1.3 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. This trail follows the coldwater brook through a forest stream with some rocky sections. Trail is accessed by hiking the Groton Nature Trail. It ascends gradually; midway, the trail begins to follow the brook. Trail ends shortly after leaving the brook side at the junction of the Osmore Pond Hiking Loop and Big Deer Mt. Trail. (Elev. Chg: 1086 feet – 1456 feet).

8. Telephone Line Multi Use Trail (Under Development)
2.5 miles, 1.25 hours. Effort Rating: Moderate. Conditions and track size vary on this multi-use access. Via the northern trail the Railroad Trail (park across from Trails 584

9. Coldwater Brook Trail
1.9 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. This trail winds through diverse woods. There are some rocky sections at the upper end of the trail. Starts at the Nature Center parking lot, crossing embankment, then continues on a trail following the brook. Crosses Peacham Bog Loop Trail (0.4 miles) and turns left, ascending gradually. Elevation Change: 1086 feet – 1575 feet.

10. Kettle Pond Loop Trail
3 miles, 2 hours. Effort Rating: Easy. This trail goes around a secluded lake. The trail leaves the parking lot off VT Rte. 222, climbing gradually northward to the pond. Stay right for Loop Trail. On the south side of the pond, the trail is rocky and may be wet. The trail ends at Kettle Pond State Park. Elevation Change: 1453 feet – 1477 feet.

11. Montpelier & Wells River Rail Trail, Cross-Vermont Trail
11 Miles in Groton State Forest. Effort Rating: Easy. This multi-use trail is a good place for walking, bicycling or horseback riding. There are many places to access this trail along VT Rte 232.

12. Groton Nature Trail
0.6 mile, 3/4 hour. Effort Rating: Easy. This self-guided nature trail is a walk through diverse woods. An accompanying trail guide is available at the Nature Center or at the Stillwater State Park office.

13. Little Loop Trail
0.9 mile, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Easy. Access the Little Loop Trail at the corner of the Nature Center parking lot. This short loop has a vista overlooking a wetland. Both the Coldwater Brook Trail and the Peacham Bog Loop can be reached from this trail.

14. Peacham Bog Loop Trail
4.5 miles, 3.5 hours. Effort Rating: Moderate. This hike through diverse woods provides an opportunity to view Peacham Bog and a beaver dam. The trail can be accessed by hiking the Little Loop Trail, which begins at the corner of the Nature Center parking lot. The trail crosses the Coldwater Brook Trail (state forest highway crossing) and heads east for 2.0 miles to a viewing platform on the edge of Peacham Bog. Caution: the bog is fragile. Please make your impact as light as possible and stay on the trail. After the bog, you will take a right on a dirt road which will eventually turn to trail again, heading westward until it reconnects back to the Coldwater Brook Trail. Take a right to return to the first trail intersection. Elevation Change: 1086 feet – 1526 feet.

15. Devil’s Hill Trail
0.5 mile, 1/2 hour. Effort Rating: Easy. From Groton Village, travel north on Minard Hill Road to South Peacham. Turn left on Maple Tree Lane; go 0.7 mile. Turn left on Green Bay Loop Road, proceed 1.3 miles. Turn right on Devil’s Hill Road (no sign), which is just beyond a log home, go 1.0 mile to gate. Hike can be out-and-back or a loop. Excellent views of Peacham Bog and other points west from the top. Elevation Change: 1700 feet – 2058 feet.

16. Cross Cut Trail
1.25 miles, ½ hour. Effort Rating: Easy. This 10-foot wide multi-use trail connects the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail to Depot Brook Road. It is primarily used by equestrians. Begin on the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail ½ mile north of Ricker Pond State Park. Continue west 0.1 mile; cross Route 232 and proceed to intersection with Depot Brook Road. You can then go north to get to several trails, or south to Seyon Lodge State Park. Elevation Change: 1200 feet – 1650 feet.

17. Noyes Pond Loop Trail
1.75 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Easy. This mostly level hiking trail circumscribes Noyes Pond. Begin at the dam, and follow the northern shoreline. At the western pond end, cross two small brooks and then connect with old logging roads on the south side of the pond leading back to the Lodge.

18. Seyon Lodge Trails
Seyon Lodge State Park has a network of winter trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Please contact the park directly (802-584-3829) for more information.

GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS
• Hiking trails are marked with blue blazes.
• Forest boundaries marked with orange blazes.
• Overnight camping and campfires are allowed only at designated remote sites and in the developed campgrounds. Inquire at park offices for more information.
• Stay on marked trails. Hiking or riding off trails causes erosion and destroys vegetation.
• Keep trails free of litter. Carry out what you carry in.
• Keep pets on a leash at all times.
• Hiking trails are for foot travel only. Multi use trails are for foot travel, horses, and bicycles. ATVs and other motorized vehicles are not permitted on the trail system.
• Leave all wildflowers and plants in their natural environment for others to enjoy.
• See the companion Groton State Forest Winter Trails Guide for more information on winter trails.

This document is available upon request in large print, Braille, and audio format. Vermont TTY Relay: (800)253-0191.

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GROTON STATE FOREST SUMMERTIME TRAILS GUIDE

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