

WORCESTER RANGE MANAGEMENT UNIT LONG RANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The following document summarizes the changes made to the Worcester Range Management Unit (WRMU) Long Range Management Plan (LMRP) between the first draft and the final draft.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

- The Vegetation Management Activities section was edited for clarity (p 170).
- The implementation schedule was updated to include primary and secondary management objectives for each of the planned treatments (p 172).
- The context and background related to management goals in the Executive Summary was updated to describe the full suite of forest management strategies, including climate adaptation, that better reflect the goals and practices of state land management (page vii).
- Some of the scheduled years of the planned treatments were changed (p 172).
- The Executive Summary was updated to include a section on climate adaptation and carbon (pps viii, xii-xiv).
- Management Goals for the WRMU were updated to include discussion of climate adaptation and carbon (pps 136, 138, 148-150).
- The Climate Change Adaptation section was reorganized and expanded by adding a Climate Assessment to the Resource Analysis section of the Draft Plan (pps 46-53) and Climate Change Adaptation strategies to Management Strategies and Actions section (p 136; addition of Table 32).

RECREATION

- Language was added supporting the concept of a multi-use connector trail connecting the Perry Hill parcel and downtown Waterbury to Little River State Park (p 187). This trail concept was developed through a feasibility study performed by the Town of Waterbury.
- Clarification language was added explaining that backcountry skiing proposals would be considered more broadly in the management unit (pps 146-148).
- A management goal/strategy was added that will support the concentration of use to the managed trails in sensitive higher elevation areas utilizing signage and passive strategies for trail delineation (p153).

- A management action was added to allow installation of a beach mat at the Elmore State Park beach to allow for increased water accessibility (p182).
- Language was added indicating the feasibility of a universally accessible trail connecting the three-season parking area on Brownsville Road to the northern meadow and beaver pond overlook will be explored (p186-187).
- Language was added to clarify that as work occurs to achieve mechanized designation every effort will be made to attain adaptive mountain bike standards (p186-187).
- Language was added to clarify that the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) will collaborate with the Vermont Mountain Bike Association to assess the Perry Hill network to determine actions that would need to be implemented to attain adaptive mountain bike standards. Based on the outcome of the assessment FPR will work with the Waterbury Area Trail Alliance to determine a strategy to make trail modifications to provide adaptive mountain biking where possible (p187).
- Language was added to clarify that FPR will support the development of increased accessibility through integration of standards to existing opportunities or development of new opportunities when the trail can be connected to an accessible trailhead parking area and the integration of universally accessible trail standards will not drastically alter the experience or create excessive ecological impacts (p147).
- The forest management implementation schedule was updated to reflect that the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum will be considered when timber sales are developed in proximity to recreational experiences in order to preserve the desired recreational experience (p172).

WATER RESOURCES

- The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) monitoring methods and schedule for all Vermont's streams were described in greater detail, including those within or adjacent to WRMU lands.
- Language was added to report on the biological and physical conditions of WRMU-draining streams where monitoring data exist, and otherwise identify data gaps prioritized through the tactical basin planning process.
- Language was added to outline the mechanisms by which water quality and flood resilience are maintained during state lands management decisions, including the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load, the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont, the Agency of Natural Resources Riparian Management Guidelines, and the inclusion of DEC and Fish and Wildlife water and fisheries resource professionals in the District Stewardship Team project review process.

LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

- 309 acres were added to the Highly Sensitive Management Area Land Management Classification (LMC).
 - Worcester Woods Wildlife Management Area was changed from LMC 2.2 (Wildlife Corridor) to LMC 1.11 (Highly Sensitive Management Area-District Designation) after reevaluation of the ecological conditions on the land and determination that the HSMA designation was compatible with the natural resource management goals of this parcel (p155).
 - The Renosco-Hoyt Lot has been changed from LMC 2.10 (Special Viewshed Area) to LMC 1.11 (Highly Sensitive Management Area-District Designation) after reevaluation of the ecological conditions on the land and determination that the HSMA designation was compatible with the natural resource management goals of this parcel (p154).
- The Green Crow parcel was originally designated as LMC 2.5 (Special Protection Area) in recognition of the conservation easement on the property. The designation was changed to LMC 2.2C (Wildlife Corridor) to emphasize the primary importance of that parcel for its wildlife connectivity values (p158). This change does not in any way diminish the importance of the conservation easement restrictions on the property or alter the management approaches that will be taken on this property.
- Northern Hardwood Seepage Forest wetlands in Elmore State Park and the Minister Brook watershed have been changed from LMC 3.0 (General Management) to LMC 2.2A (wetlands; p157). These were excluded by accident from the first draft of the plan.

WILDLIFE/ECOSYSTEMS

- The Draft Plan was amended to include a section addressing Vermont Conservation Design in the Executive Summary (p. x), as well as additional edits to clarify and reference managing for old forest characteristics and landscape level planning to the Management Strategies and Actions section (p135-194).
- Natural Community boundaries and acreages were updated in Table 1 for the Northern Hardwood Seepage Forest (and adjacent polygons) in Elmore State Park (p20).
- Natural Community mapping for Brownsville parcel (p23)) and Middlesex WMA (p25) that was inadvertently excluded in the first draft was added to the Plan.
- The six Natural Community maps were updated to reflect changes and additions (pps 21-26).
- Reference to the Bald Eagle being state threatened was removed from the Plan, as this species was delisted in February 2022.