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Vermont Dept. Fish and Wildlife
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CATAMOUNT COMMUNITY FOREST

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION
OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

PUBLIC LANDS AND MULTIPLE-USE:

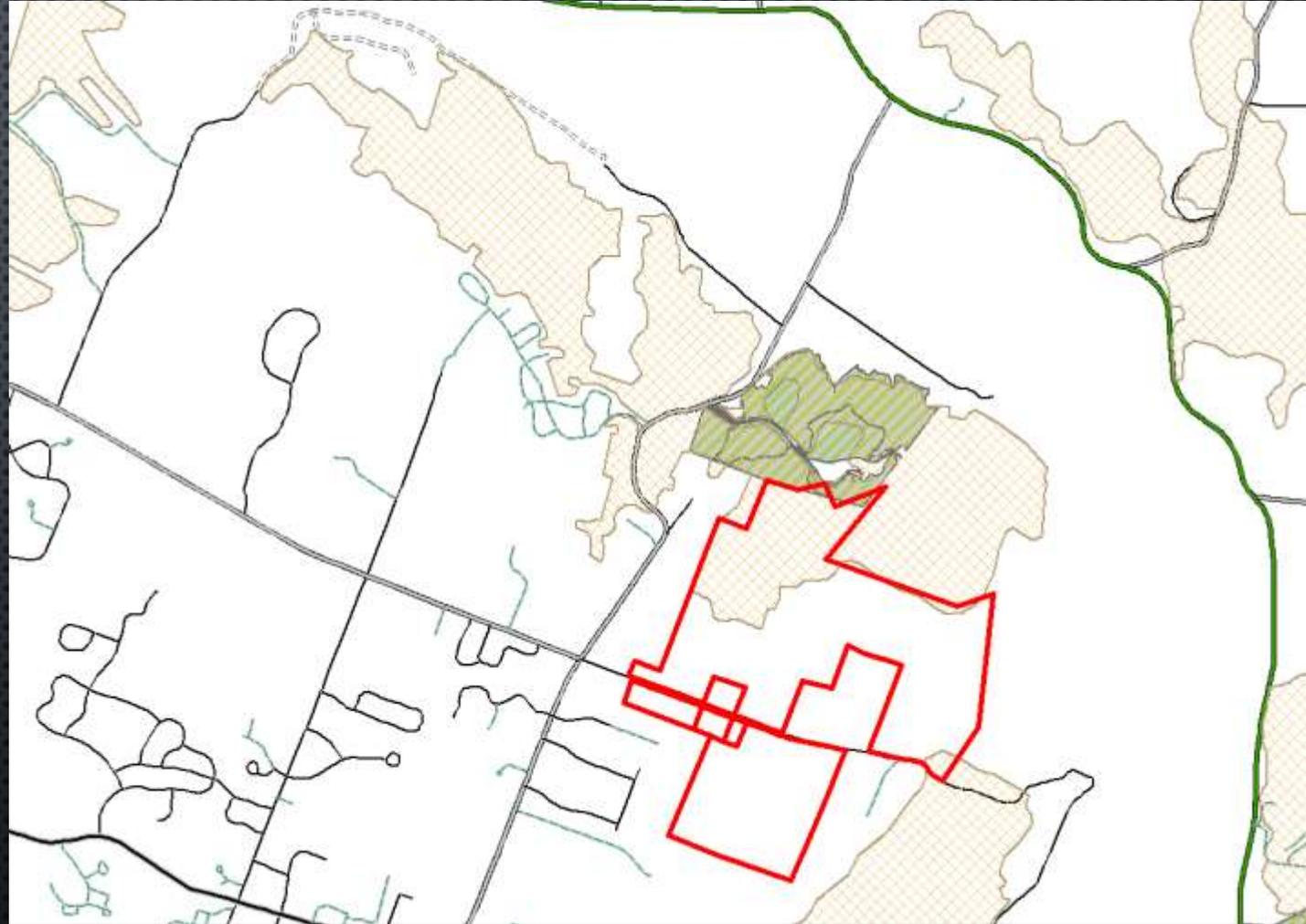
- THE EASEMENT SEEKS TO CONSERVE MANAGED FOREST, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND SCENIC BEAUTY; PROTECT WATER QUALITY; ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF SOIL RESOURCES; AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE PUBLIC.
- THIS PROTECTION WILL SERVE THE NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE FOREST, THE FOREST INDUSTRY, WILDLIFE, AND THE PEOPLE OF VERMONT.

DEER WINTERING AREAS



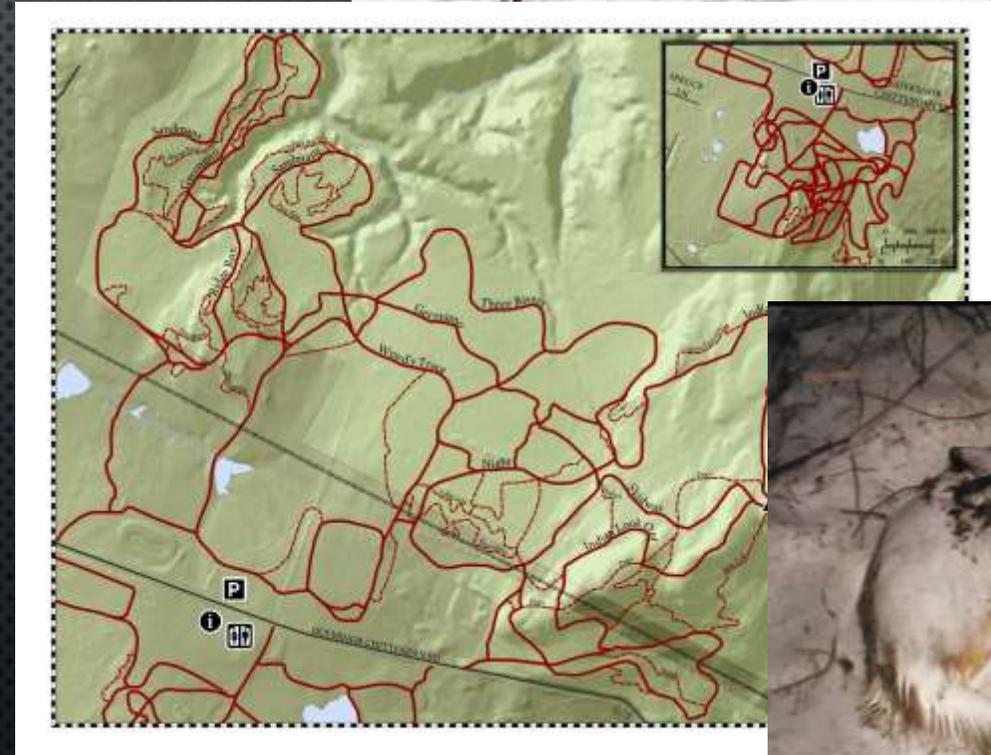
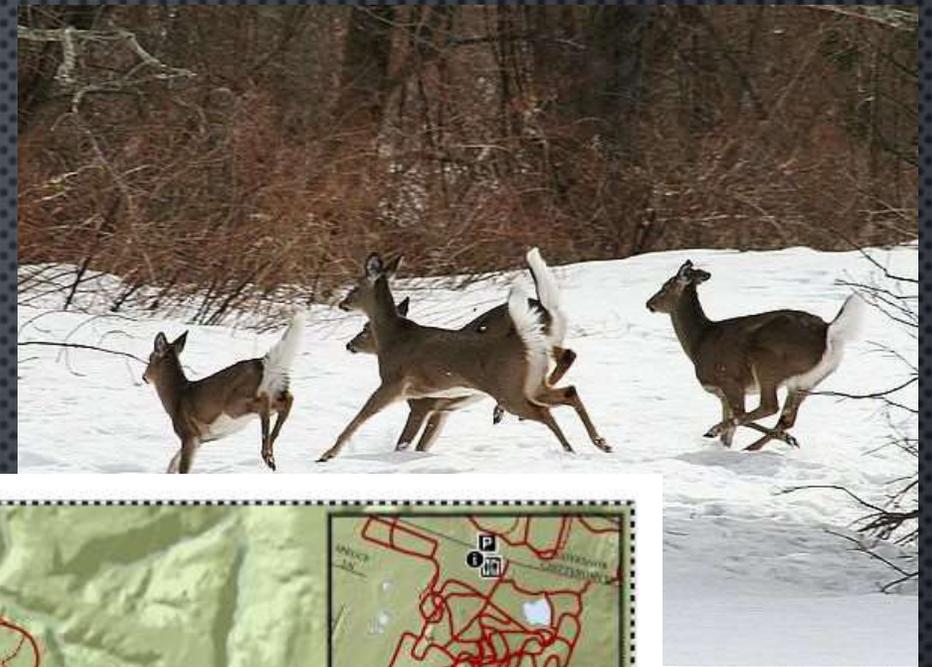
DEER WINTERING AREAS

- CONTINUOUS SOFTWOOD CANOPY COVER
- CORNERSTONE OF DEER'S ANNUAL LIFE CYCLE
 - CONSERVATION OF ENERGY
 - HIGH-FIDELITY
- 84 ACRES OF A 714-ACRE DWA
 - HEMLOCK
 - WHITE PINE
 - WHITE PINE/NORTHERN HARDWOODS
- 103 ACRES ON FONTAINE EASEMENT



IMPACTS FROM RECREATION

- 5X DECLINE IN SPECIES IN AREAS THAT ALLOW QUIET RECREATION ACTIVITIES
- DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOTORIZED RECREATION
- DEER WILL REACT TO ANYTHING THAT IS OUT OF THE ORDINARY



DEER WINTERING AREAS

- FONTAINE & CATAMOUNT: 187 ACRES
- TOTAL DWA IN WILLISTON: 3,013 ACRES
- ONLY A SMALL PORTION IS CONSERVED



DEER WINTERING AREA

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - TRAILS WITHIN THE MAPPED DEER WINTERING AREA WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL ACTIVITIES BETWEEN DECEMBER 15TH – APRIL 15TH
 - WITHIN THE MAPPED DEER WINTERING AREA, ARTIFICIAL NIGHT LIGHTING ON XC SKI AND SNOWSHOE TRAILS WILL ONLY OCCUR DURING SPECIAL EVENTS.
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- **THIS WILL:**
 - MAINTAIN THE FUNCTIONALITY OF AND CONSISTENCY WITH THE FONTAINE EASEMENT
 - SATISFY ACT 250 PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

GRASSLANDS

- BABY BIRD FACTORIES

- CONSIDERATIONS:

- SIZE
- VEGETATION CONDITION
- LANDSCAPE
- LIMITED DISTURBANCE
 - MINIMIZE NEST LOSS FROM MOWING



BOBOLINK AND GRASSLAND BIRD HABITAT

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
- MOWING (OTHER THAN TO MAINTAIN PERIMETER TRAILS) IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN FIELDS WILL BE AVOIDED FROM MAY 15TH TO AUGUST 15TH TO ENCOURAGE BOBOLINK AND OTHER GRASSLAND BIRD NESTING HABITAT.
- THROUGH TRAILS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN FIELDS WILL BE CLOSED TO BIKERS AND WALKERS MAY 15TH TO AUGUST 15TH.



R Eriksson





FOREST BIRD HABITAT

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
- WHERE NOT HAZARDOUS TO RECREATIONAL TRAIL USE, RETAIN SNAGS, DEAD OR DYING TREES, AND FALLEN TIMBER.
- ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERSTORY TREES AND SHRUBS.
- CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES.
- LIMIT ACTIVE TIMBER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DURING THE BREEDING SEASON (MID-APRIL THROUGH JULY). LOGGING SHOULD BE AVOIDED DURING THIS TIME.
- MINIMIZE WIDE TRAIL OPENINGS INTO THE FOREST.
- MAINTAIN A SOFT EDGE BETWEEN FIELDS AND FOREST.

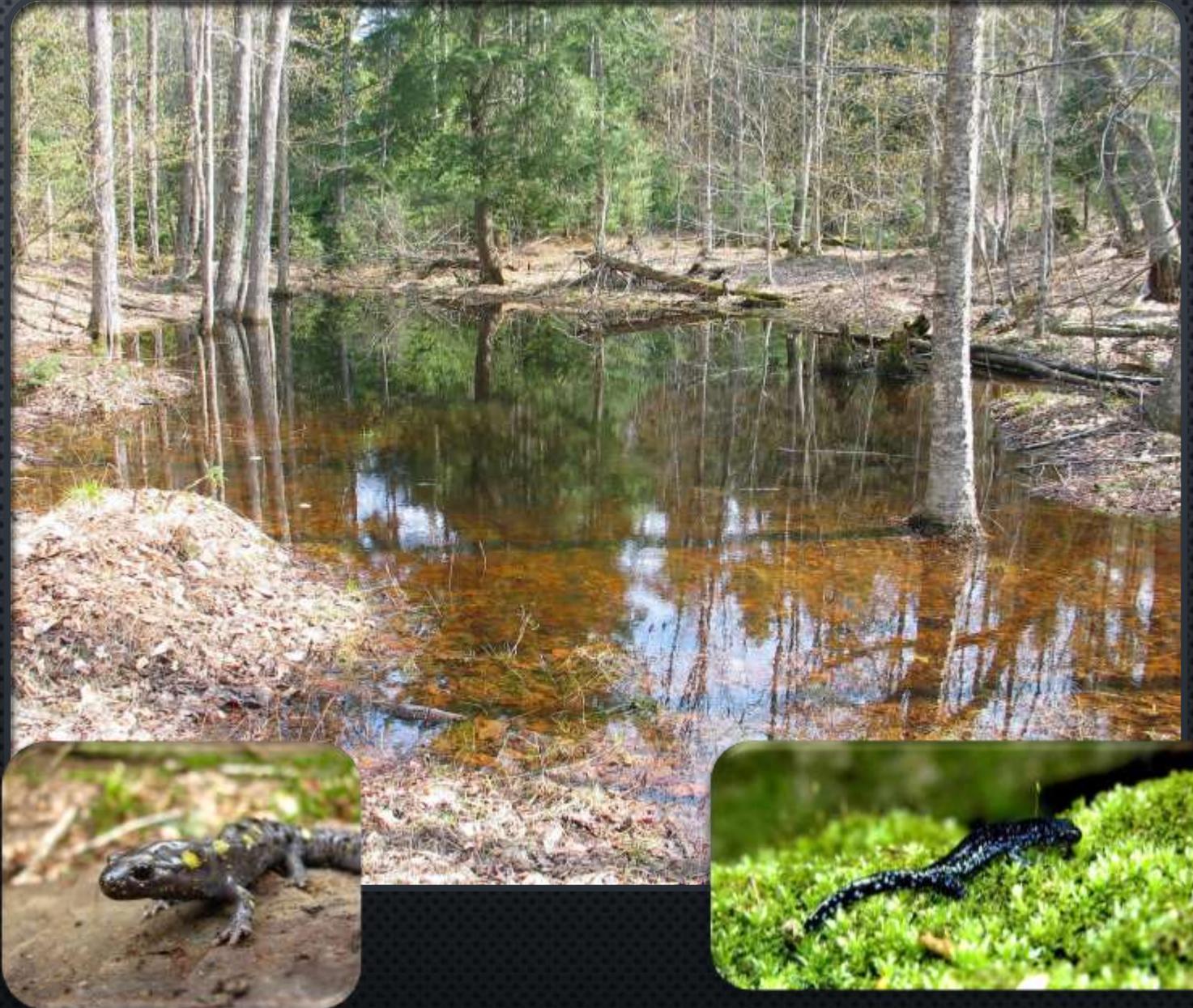
SHRUBLAND BIRD HABITAT

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
- FOLLOW THE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY VELCO FOR EARLY/SUCCESSIONAL/SHRUBLAND HABITAT IN THE 15-ACRES OF POWERLINE THROUGH CATAMOUNT PROPERTY.
- IN CONJUNCTION WITH AUDUBON VERMONT'S VELCO SURVEY PROGRAM, GREEN MOUNTAIN AUDUBON SOCIETY AND AUDUBON VERMONT SHOULD SYSTEMATICALLY SURVEY THE POWERLINE HABITAT FOR SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN.



VERNAL POOLS

- SMALL EPHEMERAL POOLS IN UPLAND FORESTS
- NO PERMANENT INLET OR OUTLETS
- CRITICAL FOR AMPHIBIAN BREEDING HABITAT
- EVEN WHEN POOL IS DRY, ALTERING THE DEPRESSION CAN IMPACT ABILITY TO HOLD WATER
- NEED CWM AND SHADE



VERNAL POOLS

- VERNAL POOL
- 100-FOOT PRIMARY ZONE
- 600-FOOT SECONDARY ZONE

- MIGRATION
 - MARCH – APRIL
 - SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER



VERNAL POOLS AND AMPH. BREEDING HABITAT

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- VERNAL POOLS WILL BE PROTECTED WITH A 100-FOOT BUFFER (PRIMARY ZONE) TO CREATE A “NO DISTURBANCE” ZONE. WITHIN THIS ZONE, THERE WILL BE NO TRAIL CONSTRUCTION OR MACHINERY ALLOWED.
- CONTROL OF EXOTIC SPECIES AND ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCE AMPHIBIAN HABITAT MAY BE PERMITTED WITHIN THE PRIMARY ZONE ONLY WITH WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM VLT.
- WITHIN 600 FEET OF VERNAL POOLS (SECONDARY ZONE), GROUND DISTURBANCE WILL BE AVOIDED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE DURING TIMES OF AMPHIBIAN MOVEMENT. TRAIL MAINTENANCE OR NEW CONSTRUCTION THAT WOULD ALTER THE AMOUNT OF WATER HELD IN THE POOL OR CHANGE THE RUNOFF INTO THE POOL WILL BE AVOIDED.
- TIMBER HARVEST IS PERMITTED IN THE SECONDARY ZONE, BUT AMPHIBIAN HABITAT NEEDS SUCH AS COARSE WOODY MATERIAL AND SHADE MUST BE CONSIDERED. THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN MUST STATE SPECIFIC MEASURES TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE AMPHIBIAN HABITAT.