



Green Mountain *National Forest*

Caring for the Land and Serving People

George D. Aiken Wilderness

Area Facts:

Acres: 5,060 acres	USGS maps: Stamford, Woodford
Hiking level: Map and compass experience is necessary for wilderness travel as there are no trails	Use restrictions: No Bicycles or Motorized Equipment
Enacting Law: Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975	

About Wilderness:

Wilderness is Congressionally designated land managed to allow natural forces to dominate the character of the land, provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and allow for undisturbed development of plant and animal species and protection of their habitats.

The “wilderness experience” should include the spirit of challenge, discovery, and self-reliance. Therefore, the areas are not managed for visitor comfort and convenience. Be prepared to meet certain obstacles: you may have to ford streams and rescues may take longer due to primitive conditions. Unexpected accidents, illnesses, weather changes, and difficult travel conditions may be encountered.

Area Description:

This area is named after the late Vermont Senator, George D. Aiken. A strong advocate for Wilderness, Aiken led the effort in the early 1970s to expand the National Wilderness Preservation System in the eastern United States. It sits on the Woodford Plateau above 2,300 feet in elevation. Abundant streams and beaver-created wetlands attract many kinds of wildlife.

Aiken Wilderness is managed as trail-less to provide an opportunity for primitive travel and self-reliance skills. Most of the Wilderness is forested with northern hardwoods, with the remainder mostly spruce and fir. Travel generally is difficult, with mud and bugs in the summer and thick brush and fallen trees year round.

Access:

Forest Road 74 – Yaw Pond Brook Rd.: Access to the eastern part of the Wilderness. Summer only.

Forest Road 73 – West Branch Rd.: Gives access to the southern part of the Wilderness. Parking is available on the side of the road in the summer only.

Adams Parking Lot: Gives access to the northern part of the Wilderness. Located on Route 9 across from Woodford State Park, parking is year-round but fills in the winter with snowmobile trailers.

Woodford State Park: Gives access to the northern part of the Wilderness. Lot is open in the summer only and there is a charge for parking.



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests

231 North Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701



Forest Service

(802) 747-6700 Phone

(802) 747-6766 FAX

Website: www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl

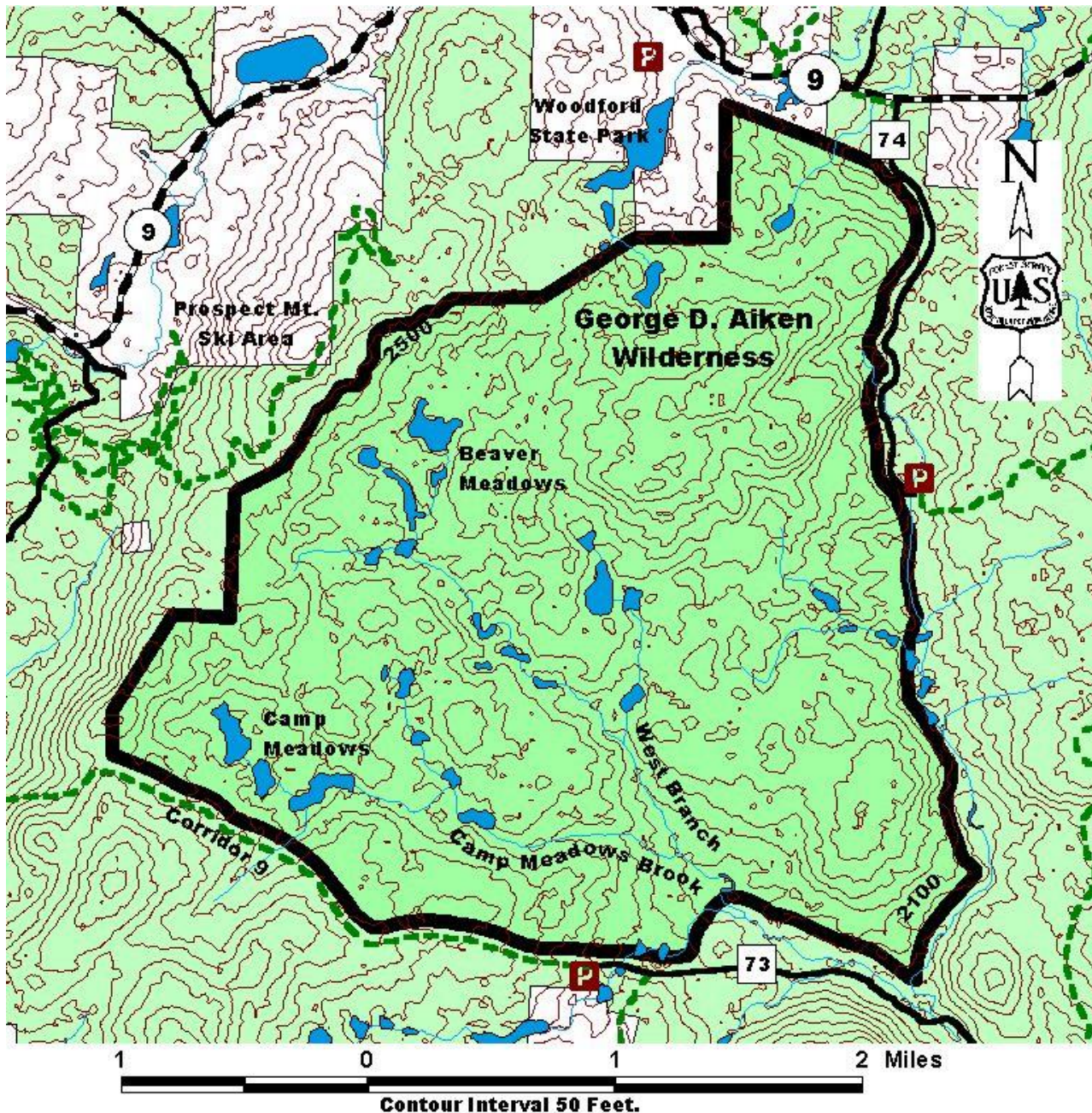
The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Emergency Services:

For all Emergencies: **911**

911 Information: The Wilderness is located in the Town of Woodford

Map:



Other Resources:

- Leave No Trace ROG or www.lnt.org
- Individual Hiking ROGs
- Outdoor Safety ROG

For More Information:

Manchester Ranger District, 2538 Depot St., Manchester Center, VT 05255, (802) 362-2307

This Recreation Guide is Available in Large Print at Forest Service Information Centers

Last modified 6/11/2020