

Aitken State Forest

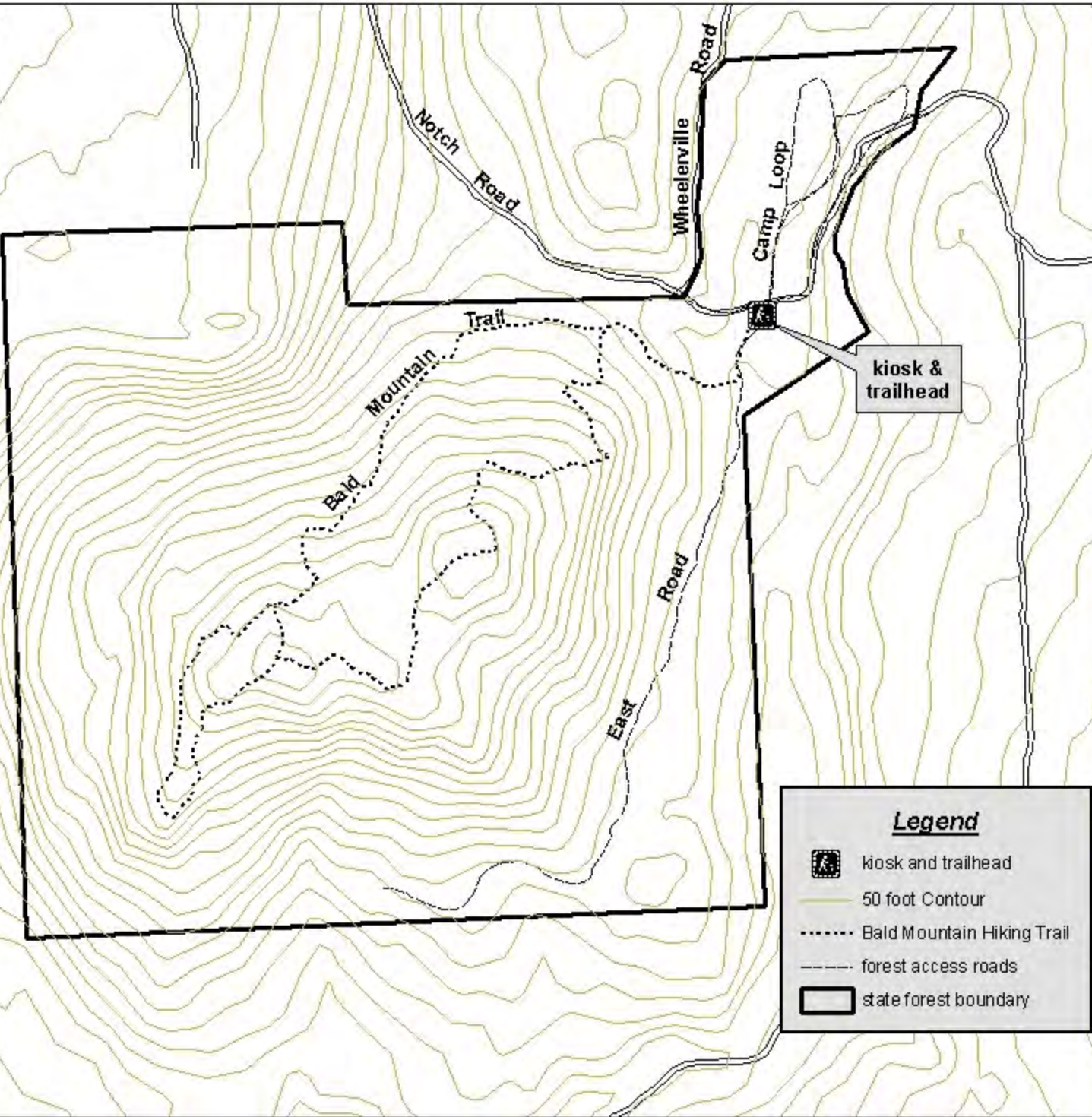
Mendon, Vermont
Agency of Natural Resources
Vermont Dept. Forests, Parks & Recreation

Bald Mountain Hiking Trail



0 310 620 1,240 1,860 2,480 Feet

This map is for planning and display purposes only.
It is not survey accurate.



Legend

- kiosk and trailhead
- 50 foot Contour
- Bald Mountain Hiking Trail
- forest access roads
- state forest boundary

Welcome to Aitken State Forest

The 918-acre Aitken State Forest has been in public ownership since 1912. Located only minutes from Rutland and serviced by both the Notch and Wheelerville roads in Mendon. This forest has helped to meet the recreational, hunting, firewood, and timber needs of the Rutland area for nearly 100 years.

Aitken lies at the south end of East Ridge, which runs north-south separating Rutland, in the Otter Creek Valley, from the heart of the Green Mountain chain. The slopes fall away toward all points of the compass from Bald Mountain (2087') which occupies the center of the forest. The variety of aspects, slopes, soil types, past management activities, and early 20th century wildfires are responsible for the diversity of tree and plant species present. These forests provide habitat for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, grey squirrel, and wild turkey. The north branch of the cold River, which forms a portion of the forest's eastern boundary is home to rainbow and brown trout.

Hiking

The 3 ½ mile Bald Mountain Trail, noted for its vistas, birdwatching potential, blueberries, and wildflowers, invites the visitor to explore all that Aitken State Forest has to offer. Four vistas located at rock promontories along the trail offer panoramic views of the Green Mountain range, Otter Creek and Cold River valleys, as well as Rutland City. Due to the steep and uneven terrain, hikers are encouraged to wear sturdy boots.

Primitive Camping

Primitive camping is allowed on most of the forest throughout the year, however, because of steep slopes and shallow soils very little water exists for camping needs between late June and early October. Camping must be at least 100 feet from any stream or body of water; 200 feet from any trail or property line; and 1000 feet from any travelled road. For more

information go to www.vtfpr.org. *“When you camp, never camp where anyone else has camped. When you move on, leave no trace that you have been there.”*

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing

These recreational activities can be enjoyed on any of the trails or woods roads within the forest or by exploring off-trail. Other nearby public land or connecting snowmobile trails provide larger opportunities. Because these trail uses coincide, please use caution.

Snowmobiling

Snowmobiling is permitted on designated trails only. VAST currently maintains a designated trail north of the Notch Road on the Camp Loop Road. This trail is part of the larger VAST corridor system.

Mountain Bikes

Mountain bikes are permitted only on drained and surfaced roads. The East Road (forest management access road) meets this requirement but is a dead end and fairly short. To prevent damage and eliminate conflicts, mountain bikes are prohibited on hiking trails and unsurfaced woods roads.

Parking

A parking area is available off the Notch Road in Mendon for summer, fall and winter use. Caution is advised for spring as the adjacent town roads are very soft.

Off-Road Vehicles Prohibited

The use of ATV's, dirt bikes or any other motorized, off-road vehicle is prohibited on these lands, roads and trails.

This document is available upon request in large print, Braille, or audio cassette.
VTRS 1-800-253-0191



Aitken State Forest

Mendon, Vermont

RECREATION GUIDE



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