



# MassWildlife Lands User Guide

## Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area

**Towns:** Belchertown, Ware

**Acreage:** 1,879

**Wildlife Management Zones:** 6,7

### Description of property:

At one time a farm and a seasonal campground, this WMA is now composed of two large parcels that cover the hillsides rising to 300 feet above the Swift River Valley. Rock cliffs, sloping hills, and flat lands consist mainly of oak, hickory, birch, and white pine. Almost 80 acres of open field habitat and multiple beaver ponds provide critical habitat to a wide variety of wildlife.

### Location/Access/Parking

The property can be accessed from Ware Road (Route 9), East Street, Cold Spring Road, River Road, and Bondsville Road. Multiple parking areas off of East Street provide approximately 10 parking spaces. Boating access for the Swift River off of Cold Spring Road has parking spaces for 20 trailers. Parking areas are not maintained in the winter.

### Habitat Management

A significant forestry cut off of East Street over 15 years ago has provided dense young forest, a critical habitat for many species in decline. Mowing of fields occurs biannually to maintain old field habitat surrounded by dense shrubland edges. Both Wood Duck and American Kestrel nest boxes are maintained on this WMA.

### Hunting Opportunities

White-tailed Deer, Black Bear, Wild Turkey, Gray Squirrel, Eastern Cottontail, aquatic furbearers, and Raccoon offer the best hunting opportunities. This WMA is stocked with Ring-necked Pheasant.

### Fishing Opportunities:

The Swift River runs from the Quabbin Reservoir through the WMA and is a top trout fishing destination. The Swift River is stocked with trout throughout the spring and fall; for more information, visit [Mass.gov/Trout](https://www.mass.gov/trout). Other species like Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass can be caught in the lower stretches.

### Wildlife Viewing and Other Features:

The Swift River is popular with kayakers and anglers in the summer. The open fields and wetlands on the WMA provide exceptional birding opportunities for waterfowl, wading birds, and grassland birds including Great Blue Heron, Wood Duck, and Bobolink.

### Special WMA Regulations:

The Swift River from Winsor Dam to Route 9 is catch & release FLY FISHING ONLY, year round. From Route 9 to Cady Lane it is catch & release with artificial lures only from July 1-December 31; from January 1-June 30 fish harvest and bait is allowed. During the pheasant season, a blaze orange hat must be worn by all hunters except while night-hunting Raccoons or Opossums or while hunting waterfowl from within a blind or boat. No person shall hunt before sunrise or after sunset during the open season on pheasant, except for the hunting of Raccoons or Opossums between 9:00 P.M. and 3:00 A.M.

### Useful Links

[WMA Regulations](#)

[Habitat Program](#)

[Hunting & Fishing](#)

### Fishing/Hunting Licenses

[Mass.gov/MassFishHunt](https://www.mass.gov/massfishhunt)

### Learn more

[Mass.gov/MassWildlife](https://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

### Connect with us

[Facebook.com/MassWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/MassWildlife)

### Get Your Orange On!

All outdoor users are encouraged to wear blaze orange during hunting seasons.

### Your local MassWildlife office

341 East Street  
Belchertown, MA 01007  
(413) 323-7632