



PRIMITIVE CAMPING FACT SHEET

Aitken State Forest

Many areas of state land are available for primitive or “no trace” camping and are open, free of charge, to the public. Primitive camping is done without the presence of developed facilities. The challenge for campers is to leave the area where they camp with no evidence of their visit.

Aitken State Forest consists of approximately 918 acres and has been in State ownership since 1912. Located only minutes from Rutland and serviced by both the Notch and Wheelerville Roads in Mendon, the forest offers a wide range of public outdoor activities to anyone with a good pair of hiking boots.

The 3.5 mile Bald Mountain Hiking Trail, noted for its vistas, bird watching 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 the city of Rutland.

Primitive camping is allowed year round on this forest; however due to the steep slopes and shallow soils, very little water exists for camping needs between late June and early October. Primitive camping is prohibited north of the Notch Road, Town Highway #18, (at the former Tamarack Notch Camp) due to its small size and lack of suitability for primitive camping.

Primitive camping is allowed only within designated areas of state land. Within these designated areas, camping must be at least 100 feet from any stream or body of water, 200 feet from any trail or property line, and 1,000 feet from any traveled road. Camping is limited to three consecutive days in any location. Groups of 11 or more individuals must obtain a permit from the district office. State forest boundaries are marked with orange paint. Parking lots and access roads are **not plowed** during the winter.

Only dead and down trees or branches may be used for firewood. Remove all evidence of campfires before leaving the site. Human waste should be buried at least 100 feet away from any stream or body of water.

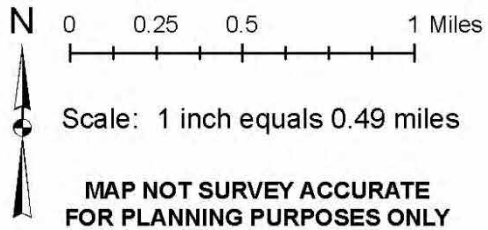
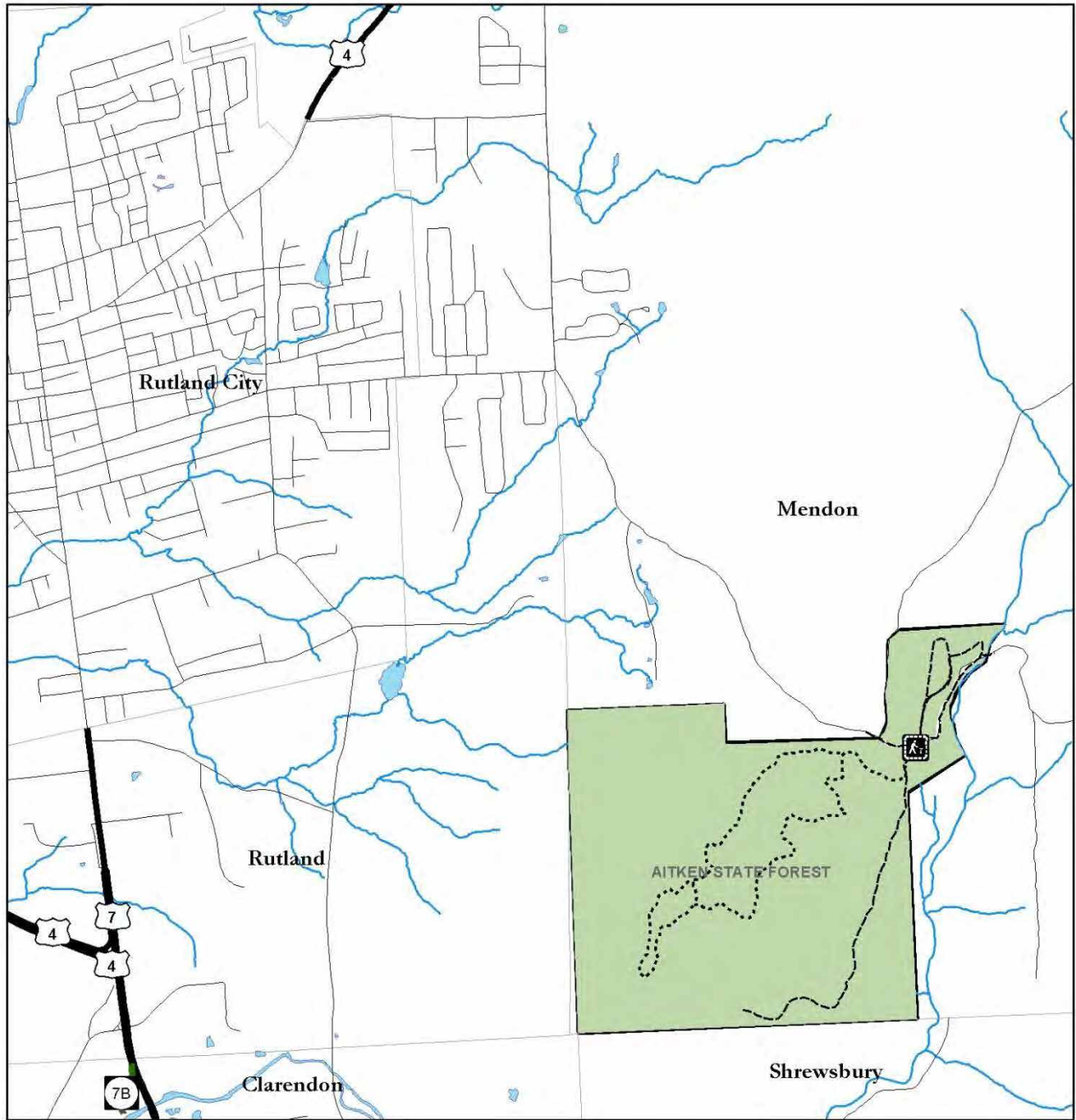
Forest management activities occur periodically on Aitken State Forest. Contact the District Office to check out scheduled timber sale activity.

Please carry out all that you carry in!

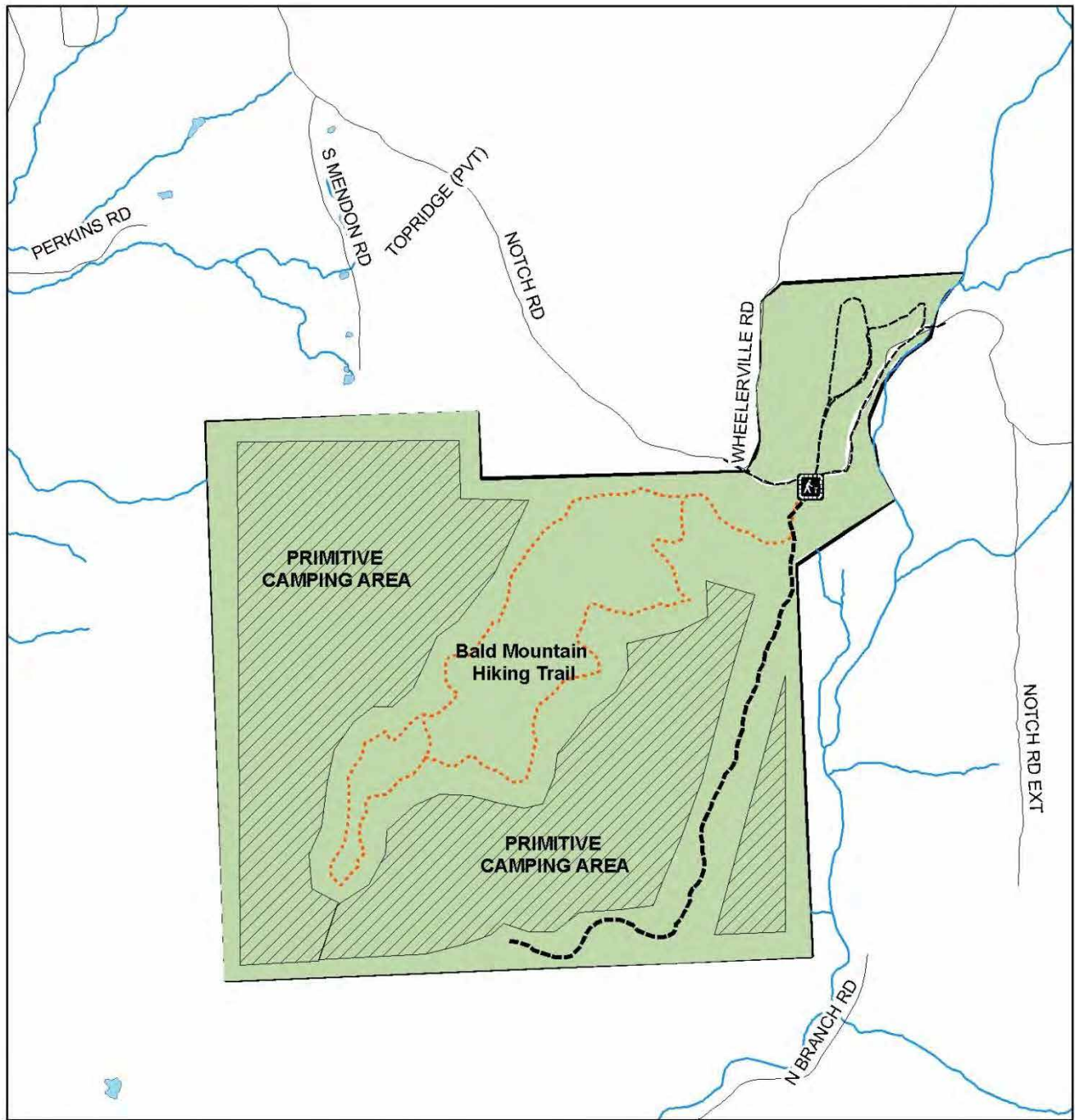
For more information, contact the district office:



Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
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AITKEN STATE FOREST
PRIMITIVE CAMPING - LOCATOR MAP
MENDON, VERMONT



N 0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



Scale: 1 inch equals 0.28 miles

MAP NOT SURVEY ACCURATE
FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY

AITKEN STATE FOREST

PRIMITIVE CAMPING AREAS

MENDON, VERMONT