

## WELCOME TO GROTON STATE FOREST

At more than 26,000 acres, Groton State Forest is the second largest contiguous land holding of the State of Vermont. This scenic and rugged area is known for its developed and dispersed recreation opportunities. Though only a half-hour drive from Barre, Montpelier, or St. Johnsbury, Groton State Forest retains a sense of wildness and supports a variety of wildlife, including black bear, moose, deer, grouse, mink, beaver, otter, fisher, loons and herons. A variety of fish are found in the clear ponds and streams.

A year-round trail system connects most major points of interest. *Peacham Bog Natural Area* (748 acres) contains one of the largest bogs in Vermont, and is home to some interesting and unusual plants and animals. The summit of Owls Head Mountain, accessible by trail, or seasonal road that leads almost to the top, offers spectacular panoramic views of the surrounding area.

The exposed bedrock found on mountain peaks here is granite, similar to that found in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The striations in this granite, and the boulders found throughout the forest, are evidence of glacial activity that occurred more than 10,000 years ago. The glaciers scattered and scraped the landscape irregularly, leaving a rough topography with generally poor drainage.

The forest's cultural history is primarily one of intensive logging, beginning in 1873 with the opening of the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad that ran through the forest. By the mid 1920's most of the timber was cut, leading to the decline the railroad. Several forest fires, especially a severe one in 1903, changed the landscape from spruce, fir and pine to red maple and yellow and white birch common today. The Civilian Conservation Corps, encamped near Osmore Pond in the 1930's, reforested some areas with plantations of pine and spruce. Today, Groton State Forest is being managed for multiple uses by the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation to provide sustainable recreation, wildlife, water, and wood products.

## TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

*Trail distances are for one way travel unless otherwise indicated. Numbers correspond to the map.*

### 1. New Discovery Campground to Osmore Pond Trail

0.5 mile, 1/2 hour. Effort Rating: Easy.

Trail starts from New Discovery Loop B next to the restroom, and travels downhill passing through a spruce-fir stand on its way to the pond. At the pond, the trail joins the Osmore Pond Hiking Loop. Elevation. Change: 1746 ft – 1456 ft.

### 2. Big Deer Mt. Trail from New Discovery State Park

1.7 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate.

This trail passes through the forest and climbs to scenic vistas. From New Discovery Loop B, turn left onto the road to Peacham Pond. After 0.3 miles, the trail leaves the road in a red pine plantation. The trail is fairly level for most of its distance, but climbs steeply from trail junction (1.1 miles) to ridgetop. Views include Peacham Pond, Peacham Bog and the White Mts. Elevation Change: 1746 ft – 1992 ft.

### 3. Osmore Pond Hiking Loop

2 miles, 2 hours. Effort Rating: Easy.

This scenic loop begins at the Osmore Pond picnic shelter. The trail veers south, away from the pond's edge. It passes under a power line just before the junction with the Little Deer Trail (0.6 miles). Continuing around the pond, the trail crosses Hosmer Brook and heads north to the trail junction. At the north end of pond, the trail may be wet near the junction with the trail from New Discovery Campground. The

trail follows the pond back to the picnic shelter. Elevation Change: 1456 ft – 1477 ft.

### 4. Owls Head Trail

1.5 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. This hike leads to a scenic vista of Lake Groton, Kettle Pond and the Green Mountains. Trail starts off the road from New Discovery to the Osmore Pond scenic area. Bypassing a swampy area, trail first descends and then climbs to a parking lot. The trail to the top continues to the left, following the rock steps of a path built by the CCC in the 1930's. Elevation Change: 1746 ft – 1958 ft)

### 5. Little Deer Trail

0.5 mile, 1/2 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. Trail leaves south end of Osmore Pond Hiking Loop (0.6 miles from shelter). Trail follows a power line for a short distance before heading uphill, steeply at times, to a ridgetop. Good views of Lake Groton and surrounding mountains. Elevation Change: 1456 ft – 1760 ft.

### 6. Big Deer Mt. Trail

0.9 mile from Osmore Pond Hiking Loop, 3/4 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. Starts at the intersection of the Osmore Pond Hiking Loop and Hosmer Brook Trail. Climbs steeply, then descends to cross a marshy area before joining the trail from New Discovery, to ascend to the top for several scenic vistas. Elevation Change: 1456 ft – 1992 ft.

### 7. Hosmer Brook Trail

1.3 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate.

This trail winds through woods and by a quiet stream with some rocky sections. Trail is accessed by hiking the Groton Nature Trail. It ascends gradually; midway, the trail begins to follow the brook. Trail ends shortly after leaving the brook side at the junction of the Osmore Pond Hiking Loop and Big Deer Mt. Trail. Elevation Change.: 1086 ft – 1456 ft.

### 8. Whipple's Run Multi-Use Trail

3.9 miles, 3 hours. Effort Rating: Moderate (bikes, horses); Easy hiking. Conditions and width vary. Accessed via the Northern Rail Trail Connector (park at the Northern Parking Area VT Rt 232 or at New Discovery State Park), trail is mostly downhill to Big Deer State Park. After Big Deer State Park a long sandy flat stretch with a short steep section connects with Coldwater Brook Trail and terminates at a large bridge at Coldwater Brook Road. Access by hikers only to/from Big Deer State Park. This trail may also be accessed via Coldwater Brook Road (high clearance and 4wd needed; 2.3 miles from Boulder Beach Rd.).

### 9. Coldwater Brook Trail

1.9 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. This trail winds through diverse woods. There are some rocky sections at the upper end of the trail. Starts at the Nature Center parking lot, climbs embankment, then traverses flat terrain following the brook. Crosses Peacham Bog Loop Trail (0.4 miles) and turns left, ascending gradually. Elevation Change: 1086 ft – 1575 ft.

### 10. Kettle Pond Loop Trail

3 miles, 2 1/2 hours. Effort Rating: Easy. This trail goes around a secluded lake. The trail leaves the parking lot off VT Rte. 232. At 0.2 miles, portage trail to left ends at dock on pond. Stay right for Loop Trail. On the south side of the pond, the trail is rocky and may be wet. The trail ends at Kettle Pond State Park. Elevation Change: 1443 ft – 1477 ft.

### 11. Montpelier & Wells River Rail Trail, Cross-Vermont Trail

11 Miles in Groton State Forest. Effort Rating: Easy.

This multi-use trail is a good place for walking, bicycling or horseback riding. There are many places to access this trail along VT Rt 232.

### 12. Groton Nature Trail

0.6 mile, 3/4 hour. Effort Rating: Easy. This self-guided nature trail is a walk through diverse woods. An accompanying trail guide booklet is available at the Nature Center or at the Stillwater State Park office.

### 13. Little Loop Trail

0.9 mile, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Easy. Access the Little Loop Trail at the corner of the Nature Center parking lot. This short loop has a vista overlooking a wetland. Both the Coldwater Brook Trail and the Peacham Bog Loop can be reached from this trail.

### 14. Peacham Bog Loop Trail

4.5 miles, 3.5 hours. Effort Rating: Moderate. This hike through diverse woods provides an opportunity to view Peacham Bog and a beaver dam. The trail can be accessed by hiking the Little Loop Trail, which begins at the corner of the Nature Center parking lot. The trail crosses the Coldwater Brook Trail (state forest highway at this crossing) and heads east for 2.0 miles to a viewing platform on the edge of Peacham Bog. **Caution:** the bog is fragile. Please make your impact as light as possible and stay on the trail. After the bog, you will take a right on a dirt road which will eventually turn to trail again, heading westward until it reconnects back to the Coldwater Brook Trail. Take a right to return to the first trail intersection. Elevation Change: 1086 ft – 1526 ft.

### 15. Devil's Hill Trail

1.4 mile loop; 1 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate. From Groton Village, travel north on Minard Hill Road to South Peacham. Turn left on Maple Tree Lane; go 0.7 mile. Turn left on Green Bay Loop Road, proceed 1.3 miles. Turn right on Devil's

## GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

- Hiking trails are marked with blue blazes.
- Forest boundaries marked with orange blazes.
- Overnight camping and campfires are allowed only at designated remote sites and in the developed campgrounds. Inquire at park offices for more information.
- Stay on marked trails. Hiking or riding off trails causes erosion and destroys vegetation.
- Keep the trails free of litter. Carry out what you carry in.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times.
- Hiking trails are for foot travel only. Multi use trails are for foot travel, horses, and bicycles. ATVs and other motorized vehicles are not permitted on the trail system.
- Leave all wildflowers and plants in their natural environment for others to enjoy.
- See the companion Groton State Forest Winter Trails Guide for more information on winter trails.

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation  
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620 (888) 409-7579  
www.vtstateparks.com

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Hill Road. Parking is on right 1 mile in. Hike this loop counter-clockwise; it's easy until a 100-yard steep stretch just before vista. Next half mile is moderate. Excellent views of Peacham Bog and other points west from the top. Elevation Change: 1700 ft– 2058 ft.

### 16. Silver Ledge Trail

0.6 mile, 1/2 hour. Effort Rating: Moderate.

Trail starts from Beaver Brook Road and crosses level terrain for a short distance. After crossing the brook, the trail climbs steeply. The trail ends at a split boulder with views of Lake Groton and beaver meadows. Elevation Change: 1358 ft – 1838 ft.

### 17. Cross Cut Trail

1.25 miles, ¾ hour. Effort Rating: Easy. This 10-foot wide multi-use trail connects the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail to Depot Brook Road. It is primarily used by equestrians. Begin on the Montpelier-Wells River Rail Trail ½ mile north of Ricker Pond State Park. Continue west 0.1 mile; cross Route 232 and proceed to intersection with Depot Brook Road. You can then go north to get to several trails, or south to Seyon Lodge State Park. Elevation Change: 1220 ft – 1650 ft.

### 18. Noyes Pond Loop Trail

1.75 miles, 1 hour. Effort Rating: Easy.

This mostly level hiking trail circumvents Noyes Pond. Begin at the dam, and follow the northern shoreline. At the western pond end, cross two small brooks and then connect with old logging roads on the south side of the pond leading back to the Lodge.

### 19. Seyon Lodge Trails

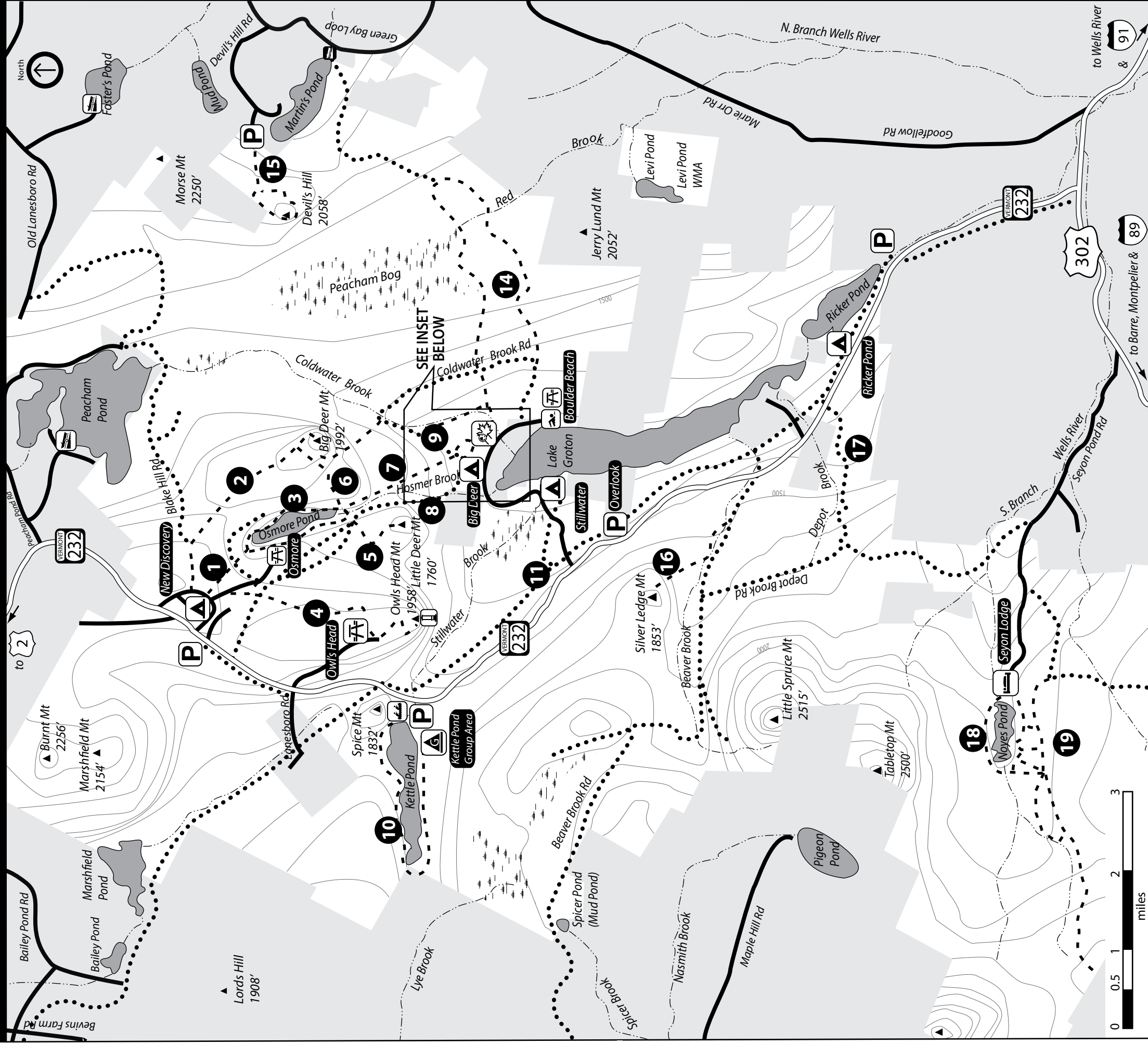
Seyon Lodge State Park has a network of winter trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Please contact the park directly (802-584-3829) for more information.

## GROTON STATE FOREST SUMMER TRAILS GUIDE

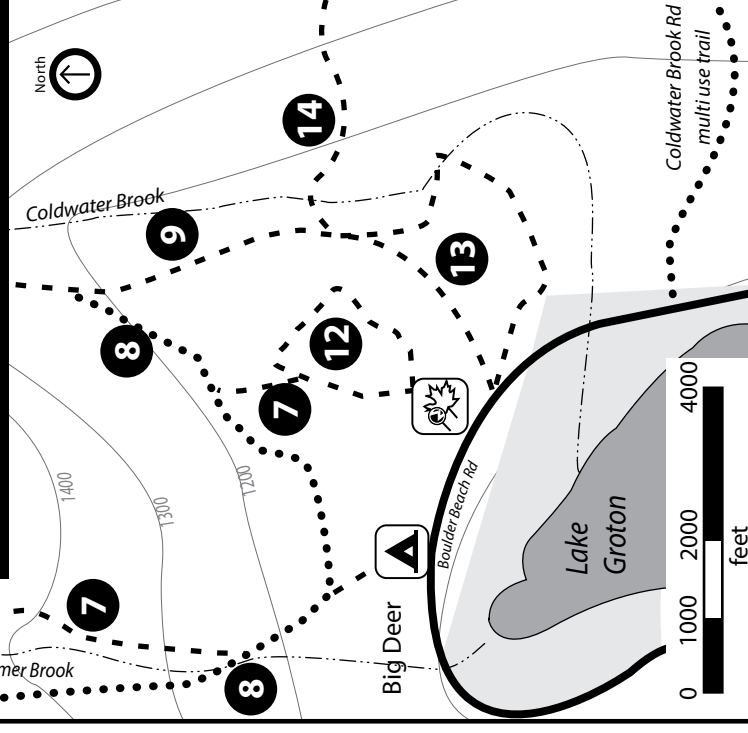


 VERMONT  
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

# GROTON STATE FOREST SUMMER TRAILS GUIDE



## NATURE CENTER INSET



## LEGEND

- State Park Campground
- State Park Day Use Area
- State Park Swimming Area
- State Park Group Campground
- State Park Lodging
- Parking
- Observation point
- Groton Nature Center
- Cartop Boat Launch
- Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Access Area
- Foot Trail
- Multi-Use Trail (state forest highways labeled as such)
- Federal or State Highway
- Local Road

**1** Numbers refer to trail descriptions on reverse side of map

this map is intended for informational purposes only  
not survey accurate