

ACFC Wetlands Walk - 10/15/2025

Present:

ACFC: Jim Cochran, Sam Pratt, Wright Preston, Ian Stokes

Public: Tina Heath, District Wetlands Ecologist for State of Vermont

The main wetlands area in ACF is just south of the north/south boundary (old VAST trail), and are likely class II wetlands. There are other wetlands in ACF, most of which are class III wetlands.

Class II Wetland Considerations

Any of the following work within 50 feet of the wetlands would require a state permit:

- Filling (any filling, even if the fill is from on site)
- Benching
- Grading
- Clearing

Silviculture and Agriculture uses are different, and require different permitting.

For the area in question, routing a trail 50 feet uphill/north of the former VAST trail would not trigger permitting and would likely be cheaper. Rather than a boardwalk, only a few small bridges for stream crossings would be required. This would allow continued vehicle access along the existing trail, respect the Maple Wind Farm boundary, and keep the trails in ACF in better shape. **Note:** this may require special consideration in the Recreation Section Trail Development Parameters to ensure it's possible to put that trail in (if desired). Should the committee consider allowing greater flexibility for reroutes to existing trails?

Class III Wetland Considerations

These are not regulated, but we are encouraged to preserve them. Future trail development in the forest should consider wetlands, and include (but not be limited to) the State Watershed Management Division.