



*Wetlands habitat associated with Meadow Run contrasts with the forested woodland habitat on the surrounding hills.*

**Description:** Short Mountain WMA encompasses two mountain ridges that form a long horseshoe-shaped basin with little Meadow Run meandering through the wooded valley. The 8,005 woodland acres provide an atmosphere of solitude and beauty. Chestnut oak is the predominant tree on the ridgetops, while red oak, white oak, and pitch and Virginia pine blanket the upper slopes. White, red, and black oak, hickory and a smattering of black walnut and yellow poplar make the coves and lower slopes a squirrel hunter's delight. A total of 61 acres comprised of beaver meadows, abandoned fields and man-made wildlife clearings provide open lands.

Fifteen miles of foot trails and 10 miles of gravel and dirt roads provide good access throughout the area. Campers have access to 74 primitive camping sites (pit toilets). The camping fee is \$10 per night for six people and \$2 for each additional person.

**Viewing Information:** In spring and summer, bird watchers can observe many neotropical migratory warblers such as the common yellowthroat, Northern parula, and prairie warbler. Other notable songbirds include the Eastern wood peewee, scarlet tanager, yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos, and Acadian and great-crested flycatchers. Wetland songbirds can be seen in the valley wetlands. White-tailed deer, black bears, foxes, squirrels, wild turkeys and ruffed grouse inhabit the woods. Bobcats and coyotes also live on the area, but are seldom seen. Those interested in reptiles and amphibians may see rattlesnakes, wood turtles, painted turtles, spotted salamanders and Eastern-spotted newts. Visitors in spring can hear the distinctive calls of spring peepers, wood frogs and green frogs. A one-half mile section of the North River crosses the very southern tip of the property. Game fish include rock and smallmouth bass, panfish and trout (stocked February through May). Beaver ponds along a six-mile stretch of Meadow Run provide limited fishing and the best wildlife watching opportunities. Beavers converted this once forested area into an impressive wetlands complex several decades ago.



*Common yellowthroat*

**Directions:** Short Mountain WMA is located about 18 miles southeast of Romney. From U.S. Route 50 at Augusta, take state Route 7 south about 8 miles. Turn left at the brown WMA sign. The gravel road passes through private property for about one mile before reaching the entrance to Short Mountain.

**NOTE: THIS AREA IS WALK-IN ONLY EXCEPT DURING LEGAL HUNTING SEASONS.** There is room for a few cars to park by the gate into the area. This is a natural area with no facilities and is a public hunting area. Please check the state hunting regulations, DNR Web site, or call the DNR Romney office for season dates.

**Closest town:** Augusta

**Ownership:** West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (304-822-3551)

Art Shomo

Steve Shaluta