

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Peter Shumlin
FROM: Michael Snyder, Commissioner 
DATE: April 16, 2015
SUBJ: **Expansion of Tinker Brook Natural Area, Coolidge State Forest**

Pursuant to Title 10, § 2607 the Commissioner may designate certain Department lands as natural areas, subject to the approval of the Governor. The Department is now submitting a proposal to expand the existing Tinker Brook Natural Area at Coolidge State Forest.

Tinker Brook Natural Area Expansion (Coolidge State Forest, Town of Plymouth)

The Department is proposing to expand the boundaries of the Tinker Brook Natural Area in Coolidge State Forest, Plymouth VT. Originally approved as a Natural Area in 1965 by Governor Phil Hoff, the Tinker Brook Natural Area lies in the narrow, steep sided Tinker Brook ravine near the eastern boundary of the state forest. Though never surveyed, the current acreage of the Natural Area is estimated at 68 acres. The Department is proposing to expand the Natural Area by an additional 38 acres, bringing the total size of the Natural Area to 106 acres.

The Tinker Brook shelter, an Adirondack-style lean-to constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, is at the boundary of the Natural Area. Access to the shelter and the Natural Area is along a ½ mile trail which leads from the CCC Road to the shelter, and continues into the Tinker Brook gorge.

The Natural Area was established to protect the Hemlock-Red Spruce Forest on the steep slopes of the gorge. The forest in this location is thought to be old growth with individual red spruce reaching 18 to 20 inches in diameter and hemlocks approaching three feet. Many of these trees are thought to be over 200 years old.

The current boundaries of the Natural Area do not include the entire Hemlock-Red Spruce natural community and do not adequately and uniformly incorporate the steep banks of the

Tinker Brook gorge. The proposed expansion would encompass this entire natural community and would more effectively protect the steep-sided gorge. The 2008 long-range management plan for the Coolidge West Management Unit identified the need to expand the boundaries of the Tinker Brook Natural Area *to the top of the bank to include the entire natural community and to increase protection of vegetation growing on the steep banks of the gorge and to buffer it from management of adjacent lands.* The proposed boundaries, as depicted on the attached map, increase the size of the natural area to 106 acres, an increase of 38 acres. By bringing the Natural Area boundary to the top of the gorge, it fits within the landscape and affords more effective protection to the natural community.

Approved:



Peter Shumlin, Governor

9/10/15
Date

Tinker Brook Natural Area Coolidge State Forest

SFH

CCC RD

SHREWSBURY RD (SFH)

SOUTH END RD

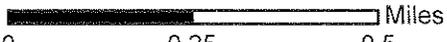
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ROUND TOP RD

Legend

-  TinkerBrook Proposed Expansion- 38 Acres
-  TinkerBrook NA Old Boundary- 68 Acres
-  State Forest, Fee ownership
-  State Park, Fee ownership
-  Non-fee interest

 N

 Miles
0 0.25 0.5

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community, Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community