# Ware River Watershed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Area Upstream of Shaft Diversion</td>
<td>62,270 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCR Owned Property</td>
<td>25,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawal Period for Ware River</td>
<td>Oct 15-June 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Flow Rate for Diversion</td>
<td>85 MGD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Diversion Rate to Quabbin</td>
<td>600 MGD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Diversion Rate to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ware River Elevation</td>
<td>656 BCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quabbin Spillway Elevation</td>
<td>530 BCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wachusett Spillway Elevation</td>
<td>390 BCB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
History

- Ware River Act 1926
  - Three villages removed
  - 600 people displaced
- Swift River Act 1927
- Aqueduct
- Shaft 1 to Shaft 8 1929-31
- Shaft 8 to 12 1931 to 33

- Barre Falls 1956 to 1958
- 8 billion gallons storage
• Drinking water supply for 2.5 million people
• 40% of state’s population
• 50 communities draw upon the system
What Does DCR do in Ware River

• Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee
• Maintenance staff maintain 100 miles of Roads a number of small dams, fields, 100 gates and whatever else comes up.
• Public Access is a major component of Ware River as well as Quabbin
• Forestry Staff
• EQ staff
• Engineering
• Rangers
**Ware River Watershed Public Access Policy Summary 2010**

### VEHICLE ACCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Ware River Reservation</th>
<th>Ware River Off-Reservation</th>
<th>Ware River Initial Zone (Reserved Area)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motorized</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiling</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating ORVs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Motorized</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FOOT ACCESS

- Wildlife Viewing/Nature Study: 15
- Cross-Country Skiing: 15
- Snowshoeing/Snowmobiling: 15
- Cooking: 6
- Frying: 6
- Ice Fishing: 6
- Ice Fishing & Ice Shanting: 6
- Shore Fishing: 6
- Boating (motorized): 9
- Boating (non-motorized): 11
- Swimming/Wading: 12
- Operating Personal Watercraft (jetskis, etc.): 12

### WATER ACCESS

- Boating (motorized): 9
- Boating (non-motorized): 11
- Swimming/Wading: 12
- Operating Personal Watercraft: 12

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Overnight Camping: 14
- Organized Sports: 14
- Programs/Assemblies: 15
- Fishing Derbies: 14
- Geocaching: 16
- Trail Clearing/Trail Marking/Advertising: ☑
- Possessing Alcoholic Beverages: ☑
- Collecting/Metal Detecting: ☑
- Target Shooting: ☑

**CHECK WITH DCR VISITOR CENTER**

Legend: ☑ Prohibited, ☑ Allowed with general restrictions (below), ☑ Allowed with specific restrictions

- General public access on DCR lands is allowed through gates and bar ways in designated areas only. Any activity which requires or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited. Night access is allowed on DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed. These policies are based on the Ware River Watershed Protection Plan, 350/CMR 11.00
- Ware River Reservation: all DCR-controlled lands and waters within Rt. 122, 122A, 56, 68, and 62
- Ware River Off-Reservation: DCR-controlled lands within the Ware River Watershed located outside of Rts. 122, 122A, 56, 68, and 62
- Ware River Initial Zone (Reserved Area): DCR-controlled lands within or adjacent to the Ware River Watershed

### Specific Restrictions for Public Access on DCR Lands in the Ware River Watershed

1. Motorized vehicles are restricted to certain maintained DCR roads at open gates. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on DCR roads beyond closed gates or bar ways and within the Initial Zone.

2. Non-motorized are allowed with specific restrictions on DCR designated snowmobile areas only. Restrictions include season, snow depth, and mph. DCR Designated Snowmobile Access Map is available from the Visitor Center, Ware River Field Office, or online.

3. The operation of ORVs is prohibited on DCR-Waterted lands and roads.

4. Recreational boating is allowed on DCR-Watered lands and roads. Offshore boating and on-road trail riding is prohibited. Recreational boating is prohibited during ocean season when DCR roads are closed by gates or signs. DCR Bicycle Access Map is available from the Visitor Center, Ware River Field Office, or online.

5. Hunting is allowed with a valid Massachusetts hunting license according to State regulations. State regulations prohibit hunting on Sundays. Hunting within WMAs has specific restrictions; see www.mass.gov/eea/dr/papletes/landmanagement/wma.html.

6. Fishing access is allowed with a valid Massachusetts fishing license according to State regulations.

7. DCR seeks cooperation from those who improve or improve access to any wild lands within 100 feet of a tributary or surface water.

8. Horseback riding access is allowed on DCR Designated Horseback Riding Areas only in the Ware River Watershed and according to specific restrictions (e.g., no riding during winter season, permits required for group sizes of 12 or more, no wading of horses in tributaries, etc.). See Fact Sheet for additional information. DCR Designated Horseback Riding Roads and Trails Map is available from the Visitor Center, Ware River Field Office, or online.

9. Motorboat access from DCR lands in the Ware River Off-Reservation is allowed according to the AIS Management Plan and with these restrictions:
   - Boating is allowed on the Ware River Off-Reservation, but watercraft must be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in length and 700 pounds in weight.
   - Motorboats must be registered with the Ware River Off-Reservation District Office.

10. Motorhome access is allowed on DCR lands in the Ware River Off-Reservation, but watercraft must be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in length and 700 pounds in weight.

11. Non-motorized riding access is allowed on DCR lands in the Ware River Off-Reservation, but watercraft must be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in length and 700 pounds in weight.

12. Limited overnight use is allowed on DCR lands in the Ware River Off-Reservation, but watercraft must be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in length and 700 pounds in weight.

13. Camping includes the use of tents, trailers, and other equipment, but watercraft must be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in length and 700 pounds in weight. Camping access is prohibited within the Ware River Watershed.

14. Fishing Derbies are allowed only by written permission by the Ware River Watershed District Office.

15. Groups of up to 25 individuals are allowed on DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed.

16. Limited overnight use is allowed on DCR lands in the Ware River Off-Reservation, but watercraft must be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in length and 700 pounds in weight.

Contact Information:

- Visitor Center: Visit the Center at the Visitor Center at 503 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02132.
- DCR Waterted Ranger: Contact the Waterted Ranger at (617) 532-0011 or mobile (617) 532-2425.
- Massachusetts State Police: Report violations/enforcement to the State Police at 911.
- DCR Waterted website: www.mass.gov/eea/dr/landmanagement/watered.html
Environmental Planning

Watershed Protection Act
Protection Zones

Primary Protection Zone
Surface Water

Secondary Protection Zone
Stream
Road
Parcel Boundary
WsPA Enforcement: Bear Hill

DCR has worked with DEP and the Attorney General for over six years to control the environmental damages from this construction site in the Ware River watershed.

2004:
Proposed 53 houses on 71 acres on steep hill adjacent to Moulton Pond in Rutland.
WsPA Enforcement: Bear Hill

2005-2006:
Initial application for local (Zoning and Wetlands), state (Watershed Protection Act), and federal (401 Water Quality Certification) permits.
WsPA Enforcement: Bear Hill

**Fall 2006:** Construction Begins
- October – *Immediate erosion problems identified by DCR.*
- November – *DEP investigation.*
- December – *Initial state enforcement action.*

**2007:** Attorney General files complaint after one year of efforts to stop environmental degradation.

One of the first erosion events, November 2006
WsPA Enforcement: Bear Hill

2008 - 2010: Ongoing Enforcement

- New permits granted with focus on improved erosion control measures.
- WsPA encroachment resolved without court involvement.
- Wetland and water quality violations proceed to Superior Court.

Overwhelmed erosion controls with sediments flowing through wetland to Moulton Pond, November 2008.
WsPA Enforcement: Bear Hill

2011- 2012:
Builder found guilty of violating both the Watershed Protection Act and the Wetlands Protection Act by MA Superior Court.

- Monetary penalty of $193,656, $125,000 of which is due up front. The remaining amount is suspended pending compliance with the other work.
- Court order to repair damages to wetlands and Moulton Pond and implement a soil erosion plan.
- Court order for no further violations
- Site access for enforcement.
Questions?