



**For immediate release  
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**Contact: Wendy Fox  
617-626-1453**

## **DCR HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS WACHUSETT RESERVOIR WATERSHED PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN**

BOSTON - The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Division of Water Supply Protection will hold a public meeting on October 28 in West Boylston to discuss development of a new public access plan for the Wachusett Reservoir watershed.

Federal and state regulations governing public drinking water require DCR to develop plans for managing and protecting state reservoirs and associated watershed lands. The current Wachusett Reservoir Watershed Public Access Plan, originally developed in 1996, was updated in 2003. Plans are updated every 5-10 years.

**The public meeting is Thursday, October 28, 2010, from 7-9 p.m., at DCR's Regional Offices, 180 Beaman Street in West Boylston.**

"It is critically important to protect the Commonwealth's drinking water supplies as best we can," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Updating the public access plan is an important step, and the public is encouraged to help us do that."

At the meeting, DCR staff members will explain the process for adopting a new public access plan and will review current policies governing public use of DCR watershed lands surrounding Wachusett Reservoir. For example, swimming in the reservoir and dog walking, even with the dog on a leash, are not allowed on watershed lands.

Following the public meeting, DCR will incorporate input from members of the public and determine whether changes are needed to the existing plan. The goal is to address any potential impacts on the reservoir's drinking water supply from public use of the watershed lands. DCR will develop a draft Public Access Plan for the Wachusett Reservoir and will schedule a second public meeting in spring 2011 to discuss it. Adoption of a new plan is anticipated by the end of June 2011.

DCR has already updated Public Access Plans for the state's three other water supply watersheds - Quabbin Reservoir (2006), Ware River (2010), and Sudbury Reservoir (2010) - and Wachusett is the last to be addressed.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Public Access Plans for DCR reservoir watershed areas are on the DCR website at:  
[www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/dwmplans.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/dwmplans.htm)

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*