

Snowmobiling



Policy

DWSP allows limited snowmobile access on its property along the multi-use trail system on its lands in the Ware River Watershed System. Snowmobile use is strictly prohibited in the Exclusion Zone and most of the 1-kilometer Intake Buffer Zone. Grooming is only allowed on existing roadways within the multi-use trail system with DWSP's advance, written permission and according to the grooming requirements detailed below. Snowmobile access restrictions are as follows: a minimum of six inches of snow coverage on a designated trail is required for access; access is allowed only after December 31; and access speed is restricted to safe speeds on all DWSP roads. A limited number of night access permits may be issued upon request to organized snowmobile organizations to conduct prearranged rides.

Grooming Requirements

- Advanced written permission from DWSP before any grooming.
- A route map on existing DWSP roads.
- Equipment must be in good working order and carry a spill kit in plastic five-gallon buckets.
- Any oil or gas spills or accidents must be immediately reported to DWSP. Any spill or threat of spill equal to or more than ten gallons of petroleum need to be reported directly to MassDEP and MEMA at 888-304-1133.
- Fueling and maintenance must occur off DWSP lands and 400' from water resources.
- DWSP plowed roads are excluded from allowed routes.

Summary

Activity	Ware River Watershed System	Intake Buffer Zone	Exclusion Zone
Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹		

 Prohibited

☐ Allowed - General Restrictions

☐# Specific Restrictions

☐ General public access within the Ware River Watershed System is allowed from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset through gates or designated (posted) areas only. Night Access is prohibited on DWSP owned lands in the Ware River Watershed System. Any activity which injures or defaces the property of the Commonwealth is strictly prohibited. Littering is strictly prohibited. Carry in/Carry out. Do not feed wildlife. Groups of 25 or more are required to obtain a group access permit from the Quabbin Visitor Center prior to access.

¹ DWSP allows limited snowmobile access along the designated trail system with specific restrictions. Restrictions include season, snow depth, location, and speed. Snowmobile use is prohibited in the Exclusion Zone and the Intake Buffer Zone, except for a small segment of designated trail that passes through the Intake Buffer Zone. A limited number of night access permits may be issued upon request to organized snowmobile organizations to conduct prearranged rides.

Explanation

DWSP limits public access for snowmobiling to designated trails on watershed management land in the Ware River watershed. Snowmobile use has the potential to disturb vegetation as well as introduce exhaust compounds, fuel contamination, and other hazardous materials from accidents or equipment failure. In addition, there is the possibility of illegal dumping in remote locations, and trespassing on abutting private lands. The creation of any trail can encourage other unpermitted activities that are difficult to monitor, control, and enforce.

DWSP designated areas for snowmobile access is in accordance with the Massachusetts Watershed Protection Regulation, 313 CMR 11.09 (2)(a)12, which states: "...Recreational vehicles are prohibited on all Watershed System property except the use of snowmobiles in areas designated by the Commissioner..." All applicable local or state and local regulations and restrictions not detailed here but related to snowmobiling also apply (e.g., 323 CMR 3.00 *Use of Recreation Vehicles and Snow Vehicles*; 304 CMR 12.29 *Snow Vehicle Operation*).

