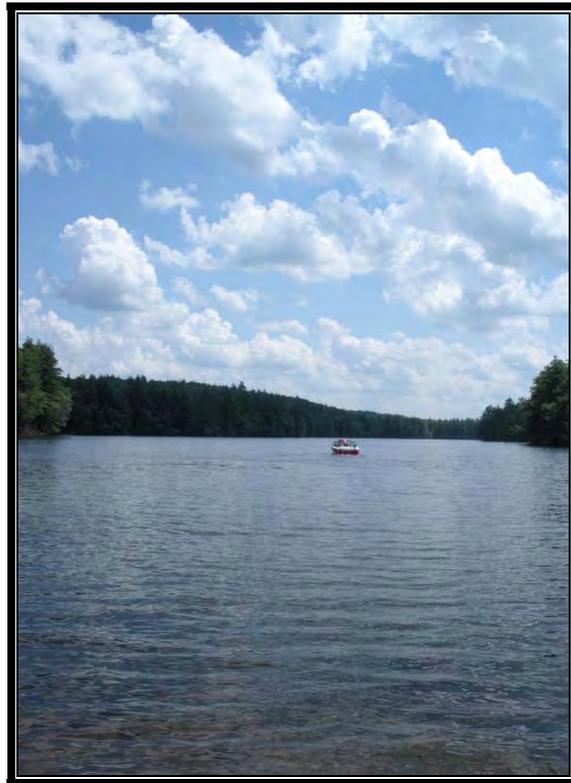




Final Report

Public Access Management Plan Survey Project

Ware River Watershed



Long Pond, Rutland, Massachusetts

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Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Water Supply Protection
Office of Watershed Management

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Project Summary

From May-September, 2009, DCR-Watershed conducted two surveys and an informal interview process to collect public input for the 2009 Ware River Watershed (WRW) Public Access Management Plan update. The two surveys and interview were utilized to gather information on the public understanding and perception of current DCR-Watershed public access policies in the Ware River Watershed. In addition, the survey and interview process was also used as an opportunity to provide participants with facts about DCR-Watershed.

The purpose of the public input process is to actively collect input from a variety of stakeholders to help guide the update of the Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan and related policies. Specifically, the project was designed to identify 1) Recreational user conflicts; 2) Inaccurate or outdated policies; and 3) Recreational activities not addressed in the past plan (e.g. geocaching).

The primary goal of the surveys and on-site interview are to: 1) Collect public input from three primary groups: stakeholders (e.g., Advisory Committees, sister agencies), abutters (private land owners with property adjacent to DCR-Watershed lands), and recreational users (formal and informal organized groups). In addition, the Division used this project as an opportunity to distribute information about DCR-Watershed and its functions. To achieve the Division's primary goal, staff piloted two new public input methods- an online www.surveymonkey.com survey, and on-site interview.

Survey development was conducted by an internal working group with feedback from the Advisory Committee. This first survey, SPR survey, was distributed to DCR stakeholders (e.g., advisory committees, legislators), 2009 Long Pond permit holders, and to recreational users with an attached self-addressed stamped envelope. This first survey was edited and improved by graduate students studying recreation management and survey design. The second survey, Abutter survey, was sent to DCR-Watershed abutters. Informal interviews were conducted at three primary locations within WRW, at Long Pond in Rutland, MA and Comet Pond in Hubbardston, MA, and at the rail trail parking lot off of Route 122 in Rutland, MA. An interview outline sheet was developed and used to conduct these interviews. Interview data and comments were analyzed and organized in a separate www.surveymonkey.com survey.

With two different surveys and personal interviews, the data analysis was challenging within the Survey Monkey framework and with the administrative/technical resources available. DCR-Watershed succeeded in obtaining substantial public input from a variety of respondents, even though the varying distribution methods made it difficult to calculate an accurate response rate, and data from the two survey versions could not be scientifically compared due to varying question format. While it would have been ideal to use only one survey version, and to have that same version in an online format, the revised paper abutter survey successfully gathered public

input in accordance with the initial goals. Overall, the response rate between June-July was approximately 17%. However, the survey deadline was extended from September 1 to September 15th for some stakeholder groups to distribute to their constituents at the time of this report deadline. A total of 274 survey responses were received by September 15th.

In conclusion, while there was a typically small sample size, respondents were generally knowledgeable about DCR-Watershed facts (e.g., organizational, financial, functional aspects), and satisfied with current DCR-Watershed policies for public access on its lands in the Ware River Watershed. While all the WRW attributes are highly valued by respondents, wildlife, public drinking water supply, and healthy forest are the top three most important values. More outreach and education is needed regarding DCR-Watershed's specific functions, such as their use of forest management revenues and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program.

Finally, some areas identified to improve the survey process in the future include: work with IT to increase communication and collaboration on online surveys; increase outreach to include other stakeholder groups and non-recreational users; update abutter mailing list to improve survey response rate; increase knowledge about surveymonkey.com question formatting and analysis ; simplify online survey web link to encourage use and appear more user friendly; advertise the survey availability and location on local TV and radio broadcast stations, and in local newspapers, magazines, and periodicals; collect email addresses for future mailings to improve economic efficiency ; create one survey version, with an identical online survey before survey mailing begin to make results comparable and statistically significant; and conduct on-site interviews during weekend days to reach more recreational users

Introduction

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Office of Watershed Management-DCR-Watershed, manages the Ware River watershed, which encompasses 25,000 acres in the towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, Templeton, and Westminster. The Ware River Watershed is one of three active watershed areas, located between the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed and Wachusett Reservoir watershed, in an unfiltered water supply system. This unfiltered drinking water supply system provides high quality drinking water to over 2.2 million residents in 50 Massachusetts communities, including several in the central and western parts of the state.

Designated DCR-Watershed lands within the Ware River watershed are available to the public for limited low-impact recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, and hunting. Recreational uses are allowed when compatible with Water Supply Protection and when conducted in accordance with the relevant DCR public access policies. DCR-Watershed is in the process of updating the 2000 Ware River Watershed (WRW) Public Access Management Plan. To update the Plan, DCR-Watershed established an internal working group in 2008 for issue identification. In early 2009, the Working Group launched survey development in coordination with its Advisory Committee. In the spring and summer of 2009, the working group conducted review of existing policies and associated maps. In addition, a seasonal staff person was hired to conduct the survey project to gather external data from stakeholders. This report details the survey project conducted May-August 2009.

This report describes survey development and refinement; interview development; as well as data collection and analysis. The information collected from the surveys and interview is a valuable source of public input used to guide the current public access plan update process, as well as inform DCR-Watershed staff on areas in which future public outreach is needed.

Methodology

As part of DCR-Watershed's planning process to update the *2000 WRW Public Access Management Plan*, an internal working group was established and convened in November 2008. Traditionally, the DCR has conducted stakeholder surveys prior to each public access management plan update. The survey process was modified in two ways in 2009. The first change was to add a web-based survey component. The second change was to conduct on-site interviews with recreational users. The DCR-Watershed, with support from the Information Technology group, utilized a web-based service called SurveyMonkey¹ to improve its survey design, distribution, and data analysis. The SurveyMonkey survey allowed DCR-Watershed to distribute the survey via email to most of its stakeholders, as well as use the web link on its website and on mailed paper cover letters and paper survey. In addition, the survey monkey

¹See www.surveymonkey.com

feature automatically analyzes data from online survey responses, and can allow DCR-Watershed staff to input and track paper survey responses manually entered from one IP address. This ability to enter paper survey data into the electronic database dramatically improved all aspects of the survey tool. The second significant change to DCR's public input process was the addition of informal, on-site interviews of recreational users. In recognition that many users could be left out of the mailing group and online survey, this method was used to address possible gaps in public input.

Survey Development

Stakeholder, Permit Holder, Recreational User Survey

The WRW internal working group developed a Stakeholder, Permit Holder, Recreational User (SPR) survey and cover letter between January and May 2009, based on previous public access surveys² (**Appendix A**). The survey was piloted with the WRW Advisory Committee and revised based on their comments in April 2009. The survey was finalized in May 2009, sent to IT to create an online SurveyMonkey version. Several iterations were made between DCR-Watershed staff and IT in May. It was posted online and distributed to the first recipients in June, 2009 (see Survey Distribution for recipient groups). Because the survey was sent by paper mail, DCR-Watershed developed a cover letter. The SPR cover letter includes a brief statement on the purpose of the survey, web links to the online SPR survey, printable PDF SPR survey file (only in email-distributed surveys), return mailing address, and email and fax contact information.

The resulting SPR survey is comprised of four sections of content: 1) General respondent information; 2) DCR-Watershed knowledge questions; 3) Personal value and recreation questions; and 4) Questions related to the respondents' agreement or disagreement with current DCR public access policies.

Abutter Survey

In June 2009, the SPR survey was sent for review to a University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Human Dimensions of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Graduate student, Benjamin Poole. His professional input was used to create a new survey using Microsoft Office Word (**Appendix B**). Revisions include simplifying the WRW map, reorganizing and separating question sections and adding introductory sentences to each, and reformatting the personal value and policy satisfaction questions to include a 5-point scale. This abutter survey was distributed to abutters and other paper survey recipients, and it can also be used as a template for future surveys.

² 2009 SPR survey is based on the 1999 Ware River Watershed Abutter Survey, and the 2005 Quabbin Reservoir Public Access Visitor Survey and Abutter Survey.

The paper abutter survey was reviewed by DCR-Watershed’s Internal Working Group and the WRW Advisory Committee, and finalized in mid June 2009. It was distributed by mail to abutters in Mid June 2009. Since this survey was sent by paper mail, the cover letter was included with it. The abutter cover letter includes a brief statement on the purpose of the survey, a revised web link to the online SPR survey, return mailing address, and email and fax contact information. The survey was sent to IT soon after to create an online SurveyMonkey survey for DCR-Watershed staff to manually enter paper survey responses and generate automatic data analysis.

The abutter survey is comprised of four sections: 1) General respondent information; 2) Personal value and recreation related questions; 3) Question on 5-point scale agreement/disagreement with public access plan policies; 4) DCR-Watershed related questions.

Survey Distribution

The SPR Survey distribution methods include: 1) Emailing stakeholders with web links to an online survey as well as a printable PDF survey; 2) Mailing a paper cover letter and survey; 3) On-site surveys (left on cars or given in person) with attached self-addressed, stamped envelopes (SASE). The abutters were mailed a paper cover letter and survey that included a link to the online SPR survey. A total of 845 surveys were distributed in June 2009. The distribution process is shown in the **Table 1** below:

Table 1 Survey Distribution Data, 2009

Date	Survey Version	Recipient Group	Distribution Method	Number Successfully Distributed
June 1	SPR	Stakeholders	Email	51
June 3	SPR	Stakeholders	Mail	90
June 11	SPR	Long Pond Permit Holders	Mail	67
June 1-16	SPR	Recreational Users	On-site, with SASE	25
June 15-22	Abutter	Abutters	Mail	612
Total				845

In late August, DCR-Watershed staff and the WRWAC agreed to set the deadline to September 15. This date was pushed back from the proposed date of September 1, due to confusion between staff and the WRWAC about which survey to distribute, and when and how they could distribute it to fellow organization members. This information was clarified in the August 20 meeting

minutes, and to accommodate those who wished to distribute the online SPR survey and paper abutter survey, the surveys were included with the meeting minutes; 1) Online SPR SurveyMonkey and PDF file links were included in the meeting minutes email; 2) Paper abutter surveys were included in meeting minutes paper mailings. A few WRWAC members expressed interest in distributing over 200 surveys (via email and paper mail) to their associated organizations.

Both the SPR and abutter survey could be completed and returned: 1) In person at the OWM offices in Belchertown and Oakham, MA; 2) Online at the above address; 3) Mailed to the OWM at Quabbin Reservoir; 4) Emailed to watershed.publicinput@state.ma.us; or 5) Faxed to (413)-784-1751.

On-Site Interview Outline Sheet Development & Interview Process

In order to collect public input from recreational users within the WRW, DCR-Watershed staff piloted an informal, on-site interview (**Appendix C**). Development of the interview outline sheet was a continuous process, with various modifications made based on initial interviews. After initial surveys were conducted, the sheet was modified to include questions specific to primary recreational activities, such as boating. The final interview sheet contained: 1) General respondent information; 2) Specific recreation, recreational conflicts and public access policy questions; 3) Additional comments (**Appendix D**). The interviews are designed to be short (average interview time is 5 minutes), and the outline provides talking points instead of a formal questionnaire.

Between July 1 and July 28, 36 interviews were conducted. DCR-Watershed staff targeted three hot spots: Long Pond, Comet Pond, and the rail trail parking lot on Route 122. Interviews were generally conducted on weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, and on one Friday evening until 7:00 pm. Photographs (see Findings) and general observations of recreational activities were noted by on-site staff at the time of these interviews.

Data Analysis*: Surveys and Interviews

Survey data for both surveys was analyzed using SurveyMonkey tools (see below **Survey Findings**). Online responses were automatically recorded and analyzed, but paper surveys were manually entered into the respective online surveys by DCR-Watershed staff. The results generated by SurveyMonkey could be separated by IP address if desired. SurveyMonkey results are generated in a downloadable Microsoft Office Excel workbook, organized by question. Forms of analysis include a list of the response content for open-ended questions, percentages for yes/no questions, and descriptive statistical analysis for scale questions. Bar and pie graphs were created for all non-open ended questions, and response counts were recorded for each question.

Bar graphs, descriptive statistical analysis, and general formatting were manually modified by DCR-Watershed staff for clarity and presentation. For the 5-point scale questions, a rank scale was calculated. Other modifications include adding percentages for questions with only response counts, and generating graphs based on the percentages. In addition, comments were copied in MSWord to decrease printing length, and organized into general groups by theme.

Late June 2009, an interview outline was created using a free SurveyMonkey account. The survey contained 10 questions that covered the main content of the interview, and a comment box at the end to allow for questions that would not fit within the online survey. All interview responses were manually entered into the online survey and analyzed in late July. Data from basic SurveyMonkey accounts cannot be downloaded into an excel spreadsheet, and had to be manually copied/pasted into a Microsoft Office Word document.

** Surveys and interview are intended to be non-scientific in analysis and thus only basic descriptive analysis and rank scales are utilized. Also, survey response rate and response content analysis are generally titled and cannot be divided into two separate populations defined by mailing group. Due to the fact that the paper abutter cover letter contained the link to the online SPR survey, abutters were also able to fill out the online SPR survey. Also, the web link to the online SPR survey was included on the WRW Public Access webpage, so the general public might have filled out this survey. However, the latter is unlikely due to the inaccessibility and near invisibility of the web link on the page. Finally, paper responses that did not include a return mailing address could not be definitively tracked to a specific mailing group.*

Survey Findings

The bulk of survey responses were received within two weeks of the mailing date. A total of 274 survey responses were received by September 15, 2009. This is lower than the 1999 Ware River Abutter Survey, which had a 36% response rate. The decreased response rate could be due to the outdated abutter list from 1999 that was used for the mailing.

SPR Survey

The following section will discuss the SPR survey results by content section. Revised SurveyMonkey data can be found in **Appendix E**.

Section 1: Survey Response and Demographics

DCR-Watershed received 199 SPR response surveys by September 15th. .

All respondents are from Massachusetts, with 15% (29) respondents from Barre, 11% (22) from Hubbardston, 9% (19) from Rutland, 8 % (16) from Oakham, and 57% (113) from other towns. Slightly less than half, 45% (89), of respondents lived in their town for more than 25 years, with 25 years on average. Approximately 57% (113) of respondents do not live within the WRW.

About 72% (137) do not abut DCR-Watershed land within the WRW. Approximately 5% (9-10) of respondents do not know if they live within the watershed or are abutters. Respondents range in age from 19-91 years, are an average of 47 years old, and about 59% (117) are younger than 50 years. The vast majority, 96% (188), are recreational users.

Section 2: DCR-Watershed Knowledge

Overall, the respondents are knowledgeable about most of DCR-Watershed's functions. The majority of respondents know that: DCR-Watershed provides drinking water to 2.5 million consumers (92%, 180), the Ware River contributes water to Quabbin (87%, 169), DCR-Watershed lands are primarily used for drinking water supply protection (83%, 163), and that water supply lands are managed by a state agency (94%, 186).

Around 69% (137) of respondents know that more recreational activities are allowed in WRW than at Quabbin, and around 56% (109) know that two divisions manage the DCR-Watershed lands in the WRW.

Less than 50% of respondents (37-45%, 73-88), know about DCR-Watershed use forest management revenues, payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program, and the WRWAC, and that DCR-Watershed's activities are funded through payment in lieu of taxes. More information on these specific functions should be distributed in the future.

Section 3: Personal Values

In order to determine what value(s) relating to the WRW that respondents perceive as important, a 5-point scale question was used, from 1= "Very important" to 5= "Least important." On a ranking scale, the value with the lowest ranking is the closest to the most important value. These values include privacy, wildlife, view, public access/recreation, public drinking water supply, buildings/dams, solitude/wilderness, healthy forest, and historic artifacts.

All values rank high in importance, near the "Very important" ranking. Wildlife and public access/recreation are the first and second most important values, ranking closest to "Very important," respectively. Healthy forest is the third most important value, also ranked near "Very important," and public drinking water supply is ranked slightly below this. Wildlife and public access/recreation each have the highest percentage of Rank 1 ("Very important") counts, representing 74% (145) of all respondents.

Section 3 Continued: Recreation

Hiking/walking is the recreational activity in which most respondents participate, with a collective participation percentage of 86% (166), from "Often" to "Very frequent."

Approximately 67% (125) of respondents participate in driving, from "Often" to "Very Frequent," and 52-54% (95-101) of respondents participate in snowmobiling, bicycling, fishing,

and boating. Snowmobiling and hiking/walking have the highest percentage of ‘very frequent’ participation, representing 44% (83) and 32% (61) of respondents, respectively. Other recreational activities in which respondents participate include single-track mountain biking, seeking historic artifacts, relaxation, water sports in Long Pond, botany, and picnicking. The majority of respondents do multiple recreational activities (ex. Hiking, biking, skiing) in the WRW. Of respondents that recreate, they do so an average of 33 times per year, ranging from 1 to 100 times.

Most respondents use DCR-Watershed lands on the weekends during the daytime (54%, 102) . About 86 respondents said they use the WRW on weekdays during the daytime or both on weekends during the day and nighttime. In addition, 66% (96) of respondents use both the Mass Central Rail Trail and the Ware River Rail Trail, and 34 (49)% use either the Mass Central Rail Trail and the Ware River Rail Trail. About 70% (140) of respondents answered that they do at least one activity while on the rail trail, and many do a combination, such as hiking and snowmobiling. About 91% (180) of respondents have seen signage indicating officially designated trails.

Official organizations that respondents recreate with or are involved in include Coldbrook Snowmobile Club, Wachusett Greenways, Appalachian Mountain Club, Athol Bird and Nature Club, New England Mountain Bike Association, and the Midstate Trail Committee.

Respondents that boat represent around 36% (53) of the sample population .Forty respondents boat at either/all Lake Ontario, Lake Champlain, Lake Winnepesaukee, or the Connecticut River. Fifty-three boaters listed other areas that they bring their boats, including Lake George, Lake Waushacum, Quinsigimund Lake, Wallum Lake, Singletary Lake, Island Pond VT, Quabbin, and the North Atlantic Ocean.

Section 4: Public Access Policies

The majority of respondents generally agree with all of DCR-Watershed’s public access policies. The highest agreement percentages are 95-98% (184-187) for bird watching, hiking/walking/snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, shore fishing, boating (non-motorized), group activities, and orienteering. Respondents have slightly less agreement, 85-93% (165-180) with the policies on driving, snowmobiling, bicycling, hunting, dog walking, horseback riding, boating (motorized), geocaching, paintball, unauthorized trail marking, and possessing alcohol.

Policies with the lowest percentage of agreement, from 64-73% (124-141)), are operating ATV’s/dirt bikes, camping, and collecting/metal detecting policy, which prohibits these activities on DCR-Watershed land in the WRW. It is not clear whether these respondents want ORV access or want increased enforcement of illegal ORV activity.

Approximately 21% of respondents (41) have experienced recreational conflicts with other users while on DCR-Watershed lands. These conflict comments include: 1) Illegal ORV activity; 2) A range of viewpoints on hunting, such as non-hunters not wearing blaze orange during hunting season, and in contrast, hunters creating a danger to hikers; 3) other topics.

Public Input Process Improvement Suggestions

About 38% (71) of respondents said that this type of public input process could be improved. 28% (53) respondents included their suggestions for improvements to this process. Improvement themes include more opportunities for outreach, modifying the survey format to include comment boxes for the policy questions, as well as increased on-site communication with recreational users and increased enforcement.

Additional Comments

Seventy nine people included additional comments. Main comment themes are mountain biking, ORV's, hunting, boating, forestry, positive feedback, increased signage and access, and other comments. Some respondents commented that the restrictions on bicycling are not well founded and that increased access should be allowed in cooperation with NEMBA (New England Mountain Biking Association). Other respondents feel that ORV's should be allowed in designated areas, by permit system. Some feel that hunting should be banned from WRW, while others are supportive of sportsmen. In addition, a handful of comments pertain to boating restrictions on Long Pond. Some would like extended hours during the summer for permit holders, while others would like to see changes to the permit process. Positive feedback includes that WRW is well-managed and enjoyed year-round. Finally, some respondents would like to increase access for activities that already have access, or allow access for activities that are not currently allowed, and to increase signage on roadways, and maps. Full public comments submitted in the survey by the users are included in the Appendix.

Abutter Survey

The following section will discuss the SPR survey results by question section. Revised SurveyMonkey data can be found in **Appendix F**.

Section 1: Survey Response and Demographics

DCR-Watershed achieved an 11% response rate for Abutter survey. The response rate for the new survey could be lower than expected because the abutter list was outdated.

All respondents are from Massachusetts, with 38% (26) from Hubbardston, 35% (24) from Rutland, 7% (5) from Barre, 4.5% (3) from either Oakham or Paxton, and 10% (7) from other towns. Approximately 52% (36) of respondents lived in their town for less than 25 years, with an

average residency time of 27 years. 54.5% (36) of respondents live within the WRW, 9% (6) do not know. Approximately 67% (46) respondents abut DCR-Watershed land within the WRW, only 4% (3) did not know. Respondents ranged in age from 36-93, with a mean age of 60 years. Approximately 48% (33) of respondents are above 60 years old. Approximately 77% (51) of respondents are recreational users of the WRW.

Section 2: Personal Values

In order to determine what value(s) relating to the WRW that respondents perceive as important, a 5-point scale question was used, from 1="Not at all important" to 5="Extremely important" (opposite of the SPR value scale). On a rating scale, the value rated the highest is the most important value. These values include privacy (for abutting landowners), wildlife, aesthetics, public access/recreation, public drinking water supply, solitude/wilderness, healthy forest, and historic artifacts.

All values generally ranked high, from above "Moderately important" to "Extremely important." Wildlife received the ranking closest to "Extremely important." Public drinking water supply and healthy forest are the second and third highest ranking values, respectively. Public access/recreation and historic artifacts received the lowest ranking, slightly below "very important."

Section 2: Recreation

Hiking/walking is the recreational activity in which most respondents participate, with around 74% (47) hiking/walking at least once a year. The number of times they hike range from 3-365, with an average of 86 times. Driving and shore fishing are the second and third most popular activities, with around 52% (33) and 50% (32) participants. Respondents that drive do so an average of 65 times, from 1 to 365 times per year, and those that fish do so an average of 22 times, ranging from 2 to 100. While only around 30% (19) of respondents walk dogs, their participation average is high at 66 times per year. Similarly, bird watchers represent 35% (22) of respondents, with a high average of participation at 131 times, ranging from 1 to 365 times per year. Of the recreational activity participated in the most, 31% (81) of recreational users say they participate in hiking/walking the most, and 12% (7) listed hunting. Other reported recreational activities not listed included running, wildlife viewing, photography, meditating, star-gazing, scouting, and viewing historic sites.

Of the people who recreate, 71% recreate in WRW on weekends during the day, and 63% recreate on weekdays during the day. About 29% recreate on both weekend days and nights, and 32% recreate on both weekdays days and nights. Six people said they participate in an activity in WRW with an official organization, which includes the Mass Audubon Society, Coldbrook Snowmobiling Club, Barre Historical Society, GF&G, BSTR, NEHT, and Barre Riders. Only

four people said that they participate in activities as part of a group, ranging from 6-600 people per group.

Nine boat users visit areas other than the WRW, including Lake Champlain, Connecticut River, Lake Ontario, and Lake Winnepesaukee. Other locations include Moosehead Lake, Quabbin Reservoir, and other small ponds and streams in New England/Massachusetts.

Approximately 51% (20) respondents use both the Ware River Rail Trail (north/south) and the Mass Central Rail Trail (east/west), and 33% (13) use only the Mass Central rail trail. Of those that use the rail trails, hiking/walking and biking are the most popular activities, with 50% (17) doing either or both, and 50% (17) doing a combination of other activities. Other rail trail activities include horseback riding, dog walking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, photography, and hunting. Most respondents, 73% (43), have seen signage indicated officially designated trails for certain activities.

Section 3: Public Access Policies

Respondents' rankings of agreement/disagreement with current public access plan policies ranged from slightly below "Moderately Agree" and close to "Extremely Agree." The policies ranked closest to "Extremely Agree" are bird watching, hiking/walking/snowshoeing, ice fishing, shore fishing, and cross country skiing, non-motorized boating, and possessing alcohol. The policies ranked below or slightly above "Moderately Agree" are snowmobiling, operating ORV's, driving, and collecting/metal detecting.

Twelve respondents commented on the current policies. These comments cover a broad spectrum of perception of different recreational activities, and include statements for both more or less restrictions on motorized and non-motorized activities.

Approximately 52% (29) of respondents have not experienced a recreational conflict with other users. Of the 40% (22) who have experienced a conflict, main comment themes include ORV's, dogs, hunting, and alcohol.

Public Input Process Improvement Suggestions

The majority of respondents that commented on the current public input process, 77% (20), are satisfied. Of the 6 that felt dissatisfied, four felt that more enforcement was needed in the WRW, and one feels that there has not been enough opportunity for input in the past 5 years.

Section 4: DCR-Watershed Knowledge

The intent of Section 4 is to collect information about the respondents' general knowledge of DCR-Watershed and to target misunderstood information. Overall, the results of these questions suggest that respondents are fairly knowledgeable about DCR-Watershed's general functions.

Respondents answered “Yes” more than 50% for 7 out of 12 questions. About 95% know that the WRW contributes water to Quabbin Reservoir, which provides drinking water to 2.5 million people in the metropolitan Boston, and that DCR-Watershed lands are primarily used for drinking water supply protection. All respondents know that these water supply lands are managed by a state agency, and 92% know that DCR-Watershed controls public access and recreation on its lands.

However, the majority of respondents do not know that: DCR-Watershed’s activities are funded through water bill payments (61%), the green-certified forest management program is developing healthy forests to ensure water quality (59%) and the revenues generated from this program are used to manage the watershed (67%), and that Payments in Lieu of Taxes are made to watershed communities (57%). Finally, 61% of respondents do know about the WRWAC. In the future, DCR-Watershed will focus on increased education regarding these functions and those of the WRWAC.

Additional Comments

Approximately 28 respondents made additional comments. The main comment themes are positive feedback, beavers, boats, and other topics. Some comments were split for organizational purposes. Respondents that wrote positive comments express appreciation for WRW land and DCR-Watershed’s management efforts. Some respondents feel that there are too many beavers within the watershed, that they are destroying habitat and jeopardizing water quality, and would like the population to be controlled. Some respondents express concern over the increase in weeds at Demond Pond. In addition, other respondents comments include increased fines for littering, opening more gates to access fishing areas and for general access, to wanting less restrictions.

On-Site Interview Findings

Interview findings and comments are shown in **Appendix G**.

Interview Response and Demographics

All interviewees are from Massachusetts, with 11% (4) from Rutland, 8% (3) from Barre, and approximately 81% (29) from other towns. Average age of interviewees is 50 years old, ranging from 17 to 70 years. Interviewees recreate in WRW an average of 42 times per year, ranging from 1 to 260 times per year. About 19% (7) of respondents recreate less than 10 times per year, 36% (13) recreate 10-25 times, and 25-100 times, and 8% (3) recreate more than 100 times per year.

At the time of the interviews, about 36% (13) were canoeing or kayaking, 29% (10) were shore fishing, 17% (6) were boating with an electric motor or outboard motor below 25HP, 8% (3)

were boating with an outboard motor above 25HP, and about 10% (3) were either biking or viewing. Approximately 50% (18) of the interviews were conducted at Comet Pond, 44% (16) at Long Pond, and 6% (2) at the rail trail parking lot. Size of interviewee groups ranged from 1 to 5 people, with 28% (10) individuals, 47% (17) in a group of two, 13.9% (5) in groups of three, and around 11% (4) in groups of 4 or 5.

Comments

About 36% (13) interviewees said they have experienced some form of recreational conflict. The majority of these conflicts, about 10, pertain to speedboats on Long Pond and Comet Pond and boat ramp access. Some interviewees feel that some speedboaters have been operating too closely to fishermen, kayakers, and canoers, which creates wakes. Power loading at the boat ramps is also mentioned as an issue. General comments include concerns over the horsepower limits at Long Pond and Comet Pond, and snowmobiles/ORV's riding on frozen ponds.

Public Input Process Retrospection and Future Goals

The overall purpose of the public input process is to actively collect public input regarding the DCR-Watershed's public access policies to help guide the 2009 update of the Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan. Specifically the DCR was interested in identifying: 1) user conflicts; 2) inaccurate or outdated policies; and 3) recreational activities not addressed in the past plan (e.g. geocaching).

The goals of the surveys and on-site interview were to: 1) Collect public input from three primary groups: stakeholders, abutters, recreational users, and 2) Use the opportunity to distribute information about DCR-Watershed and its functions. Objectives include piloting two new public input methods- an online www.surveymonkey.com survey, and on-site interview, and also obtain an estimated survey response rate of 13% or higher.

In hindsight, some limitations in this public input process arose, including:

- The abutter mailing list used was significantly outdated, and about 168 paper abutter surveys were returned to sender (21%).
- The online survey link was too long for paper survey recipients to type into their internet browsers.
- Some online survey questions were not formatted to analyze data in a meaningful or concise way, so some data had to be manually modified.
- Due to technical constraints, the abutter survey was not made available online, which created confusion for the recipients about which survey to fill out.
- Varying distribution methods made it difficult to calculate an accurate response rate.
- Data from the two survey versions could not be scientifically compared due to varying question format.

- Expressing 5-point scale data in clear layman's terms.
- WRWAC members distributed an unknown number of surveys/website links to their respective organization's members, which means a response rate could not be definitively calculated.

The two pilot methods, online surveys and on-site interviews, are successful and efficient outlets for gathering public input. While analysis limitations arose, the online survey method is beneficial in that it reduces labor time needed to manually enter survey responses, and when questions are formatted correctly, can reduce manual analysis. It also provides a way to reach younger respondents who might prefer to fill out a survey online. The on-site interviews were also beneficial in that they provided a face-to-face encounter with recreational users, and provided those that did not receive a survey to contribute their input.

Overall, even when these limitations are considered, DCR-Watershed achieved their initial goals and objectives by successfully obtaining public input from a variety of respondents, and using as many public input methods as needed. Also, while it would have been ideal to use only one survey version, and to have that same version in an online format, the revised paper abutter survey effectively gathered public input in accordance with the initial goals while creating a user-friendly template for future surveys. The estimated total response rate for the paper and online surveys is 17%, which is above the minimum goal of 13%.

Lessons Learned

- While there was a typically small sample size, respondents were generally knowledgeable about DCR-Watershed facts (e.g., organizational, financial, functional aspects).
- Most respondents are satisfied with current DCR-Watershed policies for public access on its lands in the Ware River Watershed.
- While all the WRW attributes are highly valued by respondents, wildlife, public drinking water supply, and healthy forest are the top three most important values.
- More outreach and education is needed regarding DCR-Watershed's specific functions, such as their use of forest management revenues and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) program.
- More outreach and education is needed regarding WRWAC.
- Some areas identified to improve the survey process in the future include: work with IT to increase communication and collaboration on online surveys.
- Increase outreach to include other stakeholder groups and non-recreational users.
- Update abutter mailing list to improve survey response rate.
- Increase knowledge about surveymonkey.com question formatting and analysis.
- Simplify online survey web link to encourage use and appear more user friendly.

- Advertise the survey availability and location on local TV and radio broadcast stations, and in local newspapers, magazines, and periodicals.
- Collect email addresses for future mailings to improve economic efficiency.
- Create one survey version, with an identical online survey before survey mailing begin to make results comparable and statistically significant.
- Conduct on-site interviews during weekend days to reach more recreational users.

Future Goals

Goals for future public input process include:

- Work with IT to increase communication and collaboration on online surveys.
- Increase outreach to include other stakeholder groups and non-recreational users.

Objectives for future public input process include:

- Update abutter mailing list to improve survey response rate.
- Increase knowledge about surveymonkey.com question formatting and analysis.
- Simplify online survey web link to encourage use and appear more user friendly.
- Advertise the survey availability and location on local TV and radio broadcast stations, and in local newspapers, magazines, and periodicals.
- Collect email addresses for future mailings to improve economic efficiency.
- Create one survey version, with an identical online survey before survey mailing begin to make results comparable and statistically significant.
- Conduct on-site interviews during weekend days to reach more recreational users.

Appendices

Appendix A SPR Cover letter, Email and Survey,

Survey Cover Letter-

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Office of Watershed Management – DCR-Watershed - formerly MDC, manages approximately 25,000 acres in the towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, and Templeton. This land is part of an unfiltered, public drinking water supply system that provides high quality drinking water to over 2.2 million residents in 50 Massachusetts communities, including several in the central and western parts of the state. The DCR Watershed operates under Federal and State regulations that require proper management and adequate control of public access and recreation.

Public input is one important source of information the DCR uses in evaluating and improving its access policies in the Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan. Your input is important to us and will be considered and utilized throughout the revision of this Plan. Please complete the following survey questions. This survey should take approximately 8 minutes.

**Please enter the link below into your browser to take the survey
online**

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/documents/Public%20Access%20and%20Recreation.doc>

**The survey included can be returned to the address below by mail or
fax.**

**Lisa C. Gustavsen
Environmental Analyst
DCR-DWSP, Office of Watershed Management
Quabbin Reservoir, 485 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA 01007**

**watershed.publicinput@state.ma.us
Fax: (413)-784-1751**

Survey Cover Letter- Email

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Office of Watershed Management – DCR-Watershed - formerly MDC, manages approximately 25,000 acres in the towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, and Templeton. This land is part of an unfiltered, public drinking water supply system that provides high quality drinking water to over 2.2 million residents in 50 Massachusetts communities, including several in the central and western parts of the state. The DCR Watershed operates under Federal and State regulations that require proper management and adequate control of public access and recreation.

Public input is one important source of information the DCR uses in evaluating and improving its access policies in the [Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan](#). Your input is important to us and will be considered and utilized throughout the revision of this Plan. Please complete the following survey questions. This survey should take approximately 8 minutes.

Please follow the link below to take the survey online

[On Line Survey](#)

Or click on the link below to open a PDF format of the survey. The survey can be printed and returned to the address below by mail or fax.

[Printed Survey](#)

Lisa C. Gustavsen
Environmental Analyst
DCR-DWSP, Office of Watershed Management
Quabbin Reservoir, 485 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA 01007
watershed.publicinput@state.ma.us
Fax: (413)-784-1751

SPR Survey

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Office of Watershed Management, DCR-Watershed, (formerly MDC) manages approximately 25,000 acres in the towns of Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland, and Templeton. This land is part of an unfiltered, public drinking water supply system that provides high quality drinking water to over 2.5 million people in 50 Massachusetts communities, including several in the central part of the state.

The DCR-Watershed operates under Federal and State regulations that require proper management and adequate control of public access and recreation.

Public input is one important source of information the DCR uses in evaluating and improving its access policies. Your input is important to us. Please complete the following survey questions.

1. Where do you live?

Town:

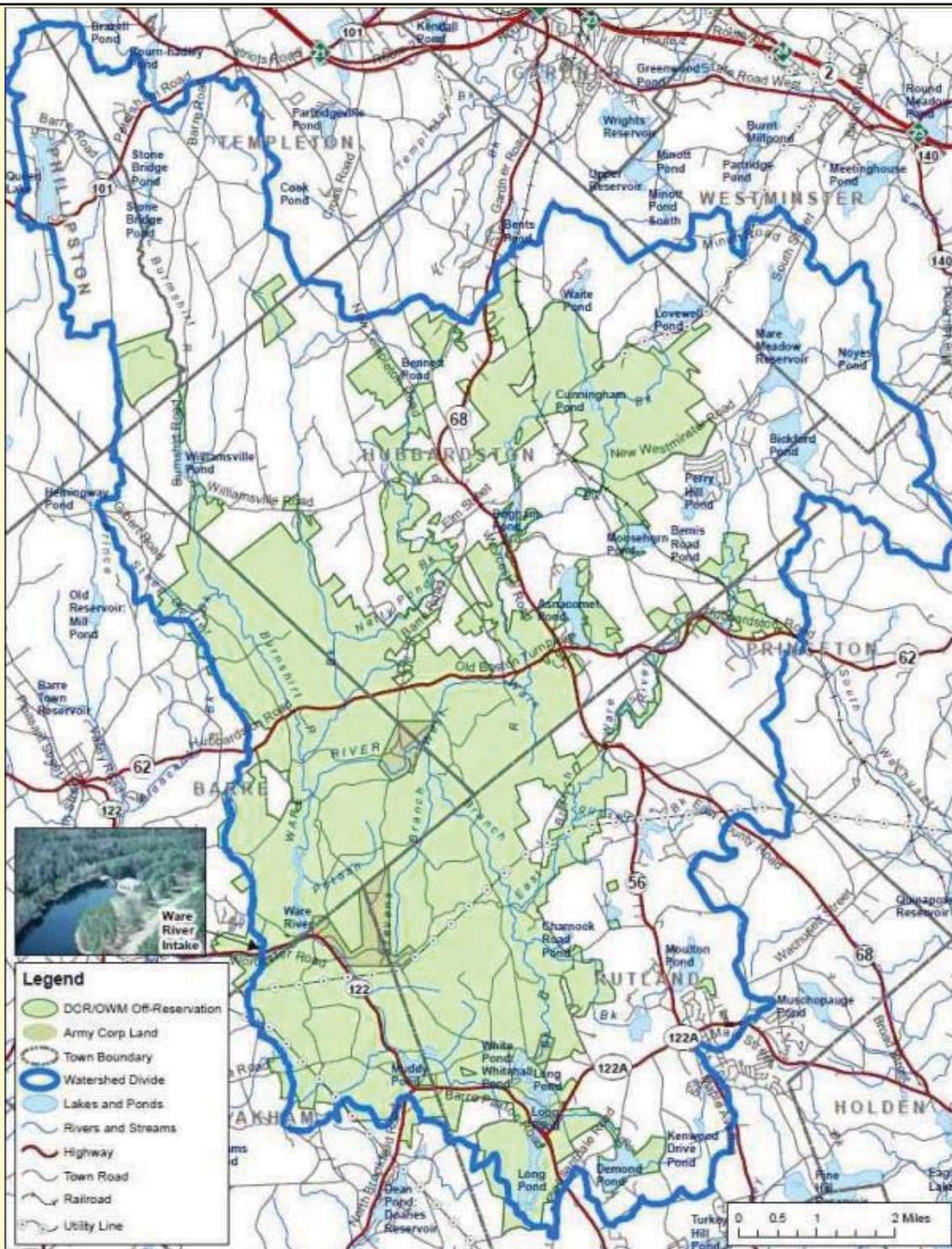
State:

2. How many years have you lived in this town?

3. Age (in years)?

4. Do you live within the Ware River Watershed (see map below)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know



5. Are you a landowner abutting DCR-Watershed land?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

6. Are you a recreational user of DCR-Watershed owned land or water?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

7. If boater, where else do you use your boat (check any that apply):

Lake Ontario

Lake Champlain

Lake Winnepesaukee

CT River

Other List

8. Did you know that the Ware River contributes water to the Quabbin Reservoir, an unfiltered public drinking water supply?

Yes

No

9. Did you know that DCR-Watershed provides the drinking water to 2.5 million people primarily in the Boston metropolitan area, and to 3 central MA communities?

Yes

No

10. Did you know that DCR-Watershed and its activities are funded through water bill payments and not general taxes?

Yes

No

11. Did you know that the DCR-Watershed lands are a public resource comprised primarily of lands taken specifically for drinking water supply protection?

Yes

No

12. Did you know that these water supply lands are managed by a state agency and not a private corporation?

Yes

No

13. Did you know that there are two different Divisions responsible for managing DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed: DCR-Watershed (formerly MDC) and DCR-State Parks (formerly DEM)?

Yes

No

14. Did you know that DCR-Watershed controls public access and recreation on its lands?

Yes

No

15. Did you know that there is a greater variety of recreational opportunities in Ware River, Watershed compared to Quabbin or Wachusett Watershed?

Yes

No

16. Did you know that DCR-Watershed’s green-certified forest management is developing multi-species, multi-aged forest cover for drinking water quality protection?

- Yes
- No

17. Did you know that revenues generated from this forest management program are used for watershed management purposes?

- Yes
- No

18. Did you know that the DCR-Watershed makes annual payments in-lieu-of taxes of nearly \$1 million dollars to Ware River watershed towns that contain property owned by the Commonwealth of MA for drinking water supply and protection? (Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland and Templeton)

- Yes
- No

19. Did you know that there is a legislatively created advisory group, the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC), comprised of town residents historical societies and recreational groups to advise the DCR-Watershed on its recreation and management policies in the Ware River Watershed?

- Yes
- No

20. Please consider the importance of DCR-Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed in relation to the following values:

1 - very important, 5 - least important

	1 (Very)	2	3	4	5 (Least)
Privacy	<input type="radio"/>				
Wildlife	<input type="radio"/>				
View	<input type="radio"/>				
Public access/recreation	<input type="radio"/>				
Public drinking water supply	<input type="radio"/>				
Buildings/Dam	<input type="radio"/>				
Solitude/Wilderness	<input type="radio"/>				
Healthy forest	<input type="radio"/>				
Historic Artifacts (e.g., cellar holes, stonewalls, old roads)	<input type="radio"/>				

21. Identify which recreational activities you enjoy in while on DCR-Watershed lands or waters

	Never	Often	Very frequent
Driving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowmobiling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiking/walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowshoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Birdwatching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog walking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geocatching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (List)

22. Please list the type of recreational user you are: (e.g., Hunter, Boater, Hiker, Biker, Horseback rider, etc.).

23. If you conduct your recreational activity with other people, how many people are in your group on DCR-Watershed land?

24. If group(s), list name(s)?

25. How many times you use DCR-Watershed lands per year?

26. When do you use DCR-Watershed lands?

	Day	Night	Both
Weekday	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weekend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. Do you use either or both rail trails in Ware River Watershed?

- Ware River Rail Trail (north/south)
- Mass Central Rail Trail (east/west)
- Both

28. What types of recreational activities do you participate in on rail trails?

List

29. Are you aware that there are designated trails (e.g. Snowmobile, Horseback riding) on DCR-Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed?

Yes

No

NA

dcr  Department of Conservation and Recreation

Each question states the current DCR-Watershed access policy. The response to the question: (Do you agree or disagree with the current policy?) Requires an Agree or Disagree response.

1. Driving

Policy: Allowed through open gates on maintained roads.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Snowmobiling

Policy: Allowed on designated and posted trails under certain conditions.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Operating ATV's / Dirt bikes

Policy: Prohibited on all DCR-Watershed lands and roads.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Bicycling

Policy: Allowed on designated DCR-Watershed roads and trails except during mud-season or on closed roads. Off-road and off-road, single-track riding is prohibited.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Hiking/Walking/Snowshoeing

Policy: Allowed except in restricted areas.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Bird watching

Policy: Allowed, except in restricted areas.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. Cross-country Skiing

Policy: Allowed, except in restricted areas.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Hunting

Policy: Allowed with a MA license except in restricted areas.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Ice Fishing

Policy: Allowed with a MA license.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Shore Fishing

Policy: Allowed in designated areas at designated times.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Dog Walking

Policy: Allowed. DCR-Watershed requests dog walkers/owners to pick up and properly dispose of any fecal waste within 100 feet of tributary or surface water.

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Horseback Riding

Policy: Allowed on DCR-Watershed designated roads and trails according to specific restrictions (e.g., walking/watering horses in surface waters is prohibited).

	Agree	Disagree
Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. Boating - Motorized

Policy: Allowed in Off-Reservation waters (e.g. Long Pond) with restrictions.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

14. Boating – Non-motorized [e.g., canoeing/kayaking]

Policy: Allowed, except in restricted areas.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

15. Geocaching - an outdoor treasure hunting game in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to hide and seek containers called caches anywhere in the world.

Policy: Allowed according to State regulations.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

16. Paintball

Policy: Prohibited by State regulation.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

17. Camping

Policy: Prohibited in the Ware River Reservation. Includes use of tents, trailers, lean-tos, and motor homes.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

18. Unauthorized Trail Marking/ Advertising / Trail Clearing

Policy: Prohibited by State regulation.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

19. Collecting/Metal Detecting
Policy: Prohibited by State regulation.)

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

20. Possessing alcohol
Policy: Prohibited by regulation.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

21. Group Activities (over 25 individuals)
Policy: Allowed with DCR-Watershed permit in designated areas at designated times.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

22. Fund raisers
Policy: Prohibited unless given written approval by Regional Director.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

23. Orienteering
Policy: Allowed, consistent with State regulations.

Do you agree or disagree with the current access policy?

Agree Disagree

24. Do you experience any recreational conflicts with other users while on DCR-watershed lands?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe

25. Do you think this type of public input planning process can be improved?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how?

26. Do you have any comments or specific suggestions?



Thank you for your time.

To review the survey results please see the DCR Watershed Website.
http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/wareaccess_09.htm

To submit written input, please send documentation to:

Lisa C. Gustavsen
Environmental Analyst
DCR DWSP, Office of Watershed Management
Quabbin Reservoir
485 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA 01007

Or send it by Fax to (413) 784 1751

Or send email to watershed.publicinput@state.ma.us

Thank You!

Appendix B Abutter Survey

Section 1: General Questions

1. Where do you live (Town, State)?

2. How many years have you lived in this town?

3. Age (in years)?



Intake Building on Ware River, Barre, MA

The shaded area in the map on the next page is land managed by DCR-Watershed within the Ware River Watershed. Please use this map to help answer the following questions:

4. Do you live within the Ware River Watershed inside the watershed boundary?

Yes

No

Don't Know

5. Are you a landowner abutting any shaded areas within the watershed boundary?

Yes

No

Don't Know

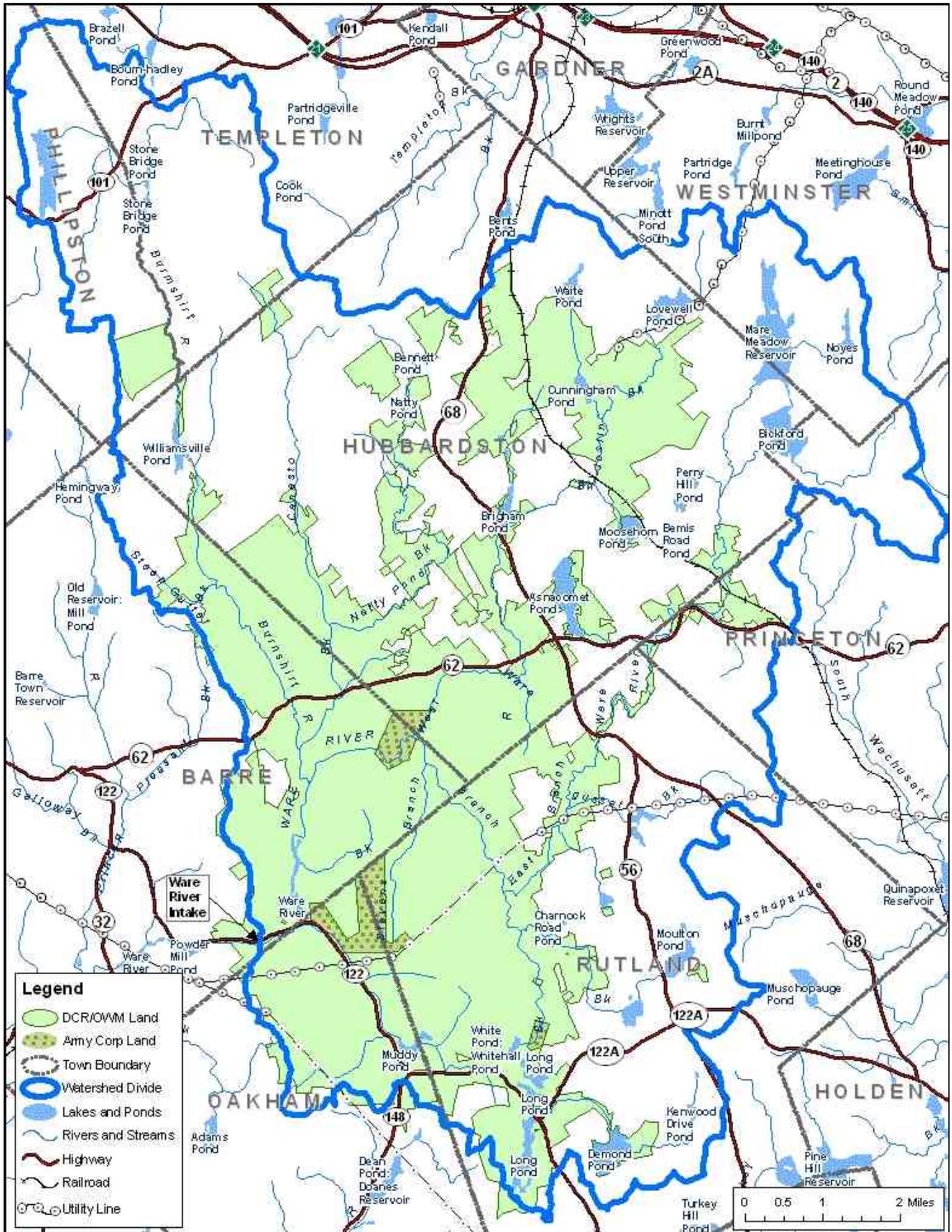
6. Are you a recreational user of any part of these shaded areas?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Ware River Watershed and DCR-Watershed Lands- 2009



Final Report: Public Access Management Plan Survey Project Ware River Watershed 2009

Section 2: Value and Recreation Related Questions

The following questions pertain to different land-use values that you have, and recreational activities in which you participate on lands managed by DCR-Watershed in the Ware River Watershed.

1. Below is a list of things that the lands managed by DCR-Watershed provide. Please rate how important or unimportant each item is to you using the following scale:

Values	1- Not at all important	2-Somewhat important	3- Moderately important	4- Very important	5- Extremely important
Privacy (for abutting landowners)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public access/ Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Public drinking water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Solitude/Wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Healthy Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Historic Artifacts (e.g. cellar holes, stonewalls, old roads)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. Below is a list of recreational activities. Please write the estimated number of times you participate in each of these recreational activities on DCR-Watershed lands/waters in the Ware River Watershed per year.

Activity	Number of Times	Activity	Number of Times
Driving	<input type="text"/>	Hunting	<input type="text"/>
Snowmobiling	<input type="text"/>	Fishing	<input type="text"/>
Bicycling	<input type="text"/>	Dog Walking	<input type="text"/>
Hiking/Walking	<input type="text"/>	Horseback Riding	<input type="text"/>
Snowshoeing	<input type="text"/>	Boating-Motorized	<input type="text"/>
Bird watching	<input type="text"/>	Boating-Non-motorized	<input type="text"/>
Skiing	<input type="text"/>	Geocaching	<input type="text"/>

3. Please list any other recreational activities that do not appear on the list above and the number of times you participate in each listed activity per year:

4. From the previous list, in which activity do you participate most often on DCR-Watershed land in the Ware River Watershed?

5. If you conduct your recreational activities as part of a group or official organization, how many people are in your group/organization?

6. Please list the name of the official organization(s) (if any).

7. If you are a boater that uses Ware River Watershed, where else do you use your boat? (Check any that apply)

- Lake Ontario
 Lake Champlain
 Lake Winnepesaukee
 CT River

Other (list):

8. When do you use the DCR-Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed?

	Day	Night	Both
Weekday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weekend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Do you use either or both rail trails in Ware River Watershed?

- Ware River Rail Trail (north/south)
 Mass Central Rail Trail (east/west)
 Both

10. Please list the types of recreational activities in which you participate on the rail trails.

11. Have you seen signage indicating officially designated trails for certain activities, such as snowmobile and horseback riding?

- Yes
 No
 Don't Know



Fig. 1: Official DCR Watershed Signage

Section 3: Access Plan Policies

The Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan contains various restrictions and regulations on different recreational activities. The current access plan can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/wareaccess09.htm>

1. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following policies using the scale below. Please list any suggestions for policy changes in the comment box at the bottom of this table.

Activity & Policy	1 Extremely Disagree	2 Moderately Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Moderately Agree	5 Extremely Agree
Driving: Allowed through open gates on maintained roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowmobiling: Allowed on designated and posted trails under certain conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operating ATV's/dirt bikes: Prohibited on all DCR-Watershed lands and roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling: Allowed on designated woods roads except during mud season or on closed roads. Off-road Single-track is prohibited.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking/Walking/Snowshoeing Allowed except in restricted areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bird Watching: Allowed except in restricted areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-Country Skiing: Allowed except in restricted areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting: Allowed with MA license except in restricted areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice Fishing: Allowed with a MA license	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shore Fishing: Allowed in designated areas at designated times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Walking: Allowed, with the request that owners pick up and properly dispose of any fecal waste 100 ft of tributary or surface water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback Riding: Allowed on designated roads and trails according to specific restrictions (e.g. walking/watering horses)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boating- Motorized: Allowed in off-reservation waters (e.g. Long Pond) with restrictions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Continued...

Activity & Policy	1 Extremely Disagree	2 Moderately Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Moderately Agree	5 Extremely Agree
Boating- Non-motorized (e.g. kayaking, canoeing): Allowed, except in restricted areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geocaching*: Allowed according to state regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paintball: Prohibited by state regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping: Prohibited in the Ware River Reservation. Includes tents, trailers, lean-tos, and motor homes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unauthorized Trail Marking/Advertising/Trail Clearing: Prohibited by state regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collecting/Metal Detecting: Prohibited by state regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possessing Alcohol: Prohibited by regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group Activities (25+ people): Allowed with DCR-Watershed permit in designated areas at designated times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fund Raisers: Prohibited unless given written approval by Regional Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orienteering**: Allowed, consistent with state regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

2. Have you experienced any recreational conflicts with other users while on DCR Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed? (For example, horseback riders not wearing orange during hunting season.)

3. Pertaining to the public input process used to update the Ware River Public Access Management Plan (past surveys, this survey, advisory committee meetings, etc.), how satisfied/dissatisfied are you? If you are dissatisfied, in what ways do you think it can be improved?

*Geocaching: "a high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices." <http://www.geocaching.com/>

**Orienteering: "the sport of navigating with a map and compass." <http://www.us.orienteering.org/>

Section 4: DCR-Watershed Related Questions

The following questions will focus on various aspects and services of DCR-Watershed, as well as its management structure.

1. Did you know that the Ware River contributes water to the Quabbin Reservoir, an unfiltered, public drinking water supply?

Yes No

2. Did you know that DCR-Watershed provides drinking water to 2.5 million people primarily in the Boston metropolitan area, and to 3 central MA communities?

Yes No

3. Did you know that DCR-Watershed and its activities are funded through water bill payments and not general taxes?

Yes No

4. Did you know that the DCR-Watershed lands are a public resource comprised primarily of lands taken specifically for drinking water supply protection?

Yes No

5. Did you know that these water supply lands are managed by a state agency and not a private corporation?

Yes No

6. Did you know that there are two different Divisions responsible for managing DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed: DCR-Watershed (formerly MDC) and DCR-State Parks (formerly DEM)?

Yes No

7. Did you know that DCR-Watershed controls public access and recreation on its lands?

Yes No

8. Did you know that there is a greater variety of recreational opportunities in Ware River Watershed, compared to the Quabbin or Wachusett Watersheds?

Yes No

9. Did you know that DCR-Watershed's green-certified forest management is developing multi-species, multi-aged forest cover for drinking water quality protection?

Yes No

10. Did you know that revenues generated from this forest management program are used for watershed management purposes?

Yes No

11. Did you know that the DCR-Watershed makes annual payments in-lieu-of taxes of nearly \$1 million dollars to Ware River watershed towns that contain property owned by the Commonwealth of MA for drinking water supply and protection? (Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland and Templeton)

Yes

No

12. Did you know that there is a legislatively-created advisory group, the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC), comprised of town residents, historical societies, and recreational groups to advise DCR-Watershed on its recreation and management policies in the Ware River Watershed?

Yes

No

Additional Comments or Suggestions:

Thank you for your time.

To review the survey results please see the DCR- Watershed website.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/documents/Public%20Access%20and%20Recreation.doc>

To submit written input, please send documentation to:

Lisa C. Gustavsen
Environmental Analyst
DCR-DWSP, Office of Watershed Management
Quabbin Reservoir
485 Ware Road
Belchertown, MA 01007

Or send it by Fax to (413)-784-1751

Or send email: watershed.publicinput@state.ma.us

Thank You!

Appendix C - Interview Outline- Original

Date:

Time:

Weather:

Location:

1. Town:

2. Time living there:

3. Age:

4. Y/N- Abut DCR-Watershed land in the WRW:

5. What do you value most about the W.R.W? (wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, drinking water, solitude, healthy forest, historic artifacts?)

6. Recreational activities in the WRW:

7. # Times/year:

7. Primary Activity:

8. Official Organization (if any):

9. How did you learn about the Ware River Watershed public access policies (online, signage, DCR employees, word-of-mouth, organization etc.)?

10. Do you agree or disagree with any of these policies? Do you have any suggestions to improve these policies?

11. Have you had any conflicts, incidents, or concerns with other recreational users or user groups?

12. If boat- Where else do you boat?

13. If boat- Are you satisfied with the time/seasonal restrictions on Long Pond?

14. If kayak/canoe- Is there any confusion about where/when you can access?

15. If hike/bike- do you use either or both the Mass Central and Midstate trail trails?

Additional comments, discussion

Appendix D - Interview Outline- Revised

Date:
Time:
Location:
Group Size:
Activity:

1. Town, State: _____

2. Time living there: _____

3. Abut DCR-Watershed land in the WRW: **YES** **NO**

4. Age: _____

5. Recreational activities in the WRW, and number times per year (**CIRCLE** primary):

Driving _____

Hunting _____

Hiking/walking _____

Fishing _____

Bicycling _____

Dog walking _____

Snowmobiling _____

Horseback riding _____

Snowshoeing _____

Boating-motorized _____

Bird watching _____

Boating-non-motorized _____

Skiing _____

Geocaching _____

Other _____

6. Official Organization (if any): _____

7. Ware River Watershed Public Access

8. Plan Policies: **SATISFIED** **DISSATISFIED**

Suggestions: _____

9. Have you had any conflicts or concerns with other recreational users/user groups?

10. If boat:

a. Last location: _____ **Date:** _____

b. Other boating locations:

c. Boating restrictions on Long Pond/Comet Pond:

Time of day: **SATISFIED** **DISSATISFIED**

Seasonal: **SATISFIED** **DISSATISFIED**

HP/Motor: **SATISFIED** **DISSATISFIED**

Suggestions: _____

11. If hike/bike:

a. Which trails do you use, and how many times per year do you use the trails?

Midstate _____ **Mass Central** _____

Both _____ **Other** _____

12. Additional comments and suggestions: _____

Appendix E - SPR Survey

Disclaimer: Some of the respondent's comments were separated into different headings for organizational purposes.

Public Access and Recreation Survey

Where do you live?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Hubbardston	11.1%	22
Rutland	9.5%	19
Oakham	8.0%	16
Barre	14.6%	29
Other	56.8%	113
<i>answered question</i>		199
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Town	State	Town	State	Town	State
Shirley	MA	Gardner	Ma	Fitchburg	MA
Pittsfield	MA	Athol	MA	Winchendon	Ma
Hubbardston	MA	BALDWINVILLE	MA	Athol	MA
Rutland	MA	Barre	MA	Petersham	ma
Ware	Massachusetts	Princeton	Mass	Westminster	MA
Barre	MA	Hubbardston	MA	Oakham	ma
Amherst	MA	Sutton	Mass.	Worcester	MA
Gorham	Maine	Rutland	Ma	Worcester	MA
Acton	MA	rutland	ma	West Boylston	Massachusetts
Hatfield	MA	Athol	MA	Holden	Massachusetts
Oakham	Massachusetts	ashburnham	mass.	Southboro	MA
southwick	ma	Ashburnham	MA	Acton	Massachusetts
Rutland	MA	rutland	ma	Rutland	MA
Oakham/Rutland	MA	Rutland	Ma.	Hubbardston	MA
Oakham	MA	Hubbardston	Massachusetts	Petersham	MA
Barre	MA	Phillipston	Mass	Jefferson	MA
Westminster	MA	Paxton	mass	Leominster	MA
Berlin	MA	Palmer	ma	Hubbardston	MA
Barre	MA	Winchendon	MA	Barre	MA
Barre	MA	Gardner	MA	Petersham	MA
Oakham	MA	Westford	MA	Hubbardston	MA
Athol	Ma	clinton	mass	Orange	MA
South Hadley	MA	Jefferson	MA	barre	MA
Williamsburg	MA	westminster	ma	barre	ma
Oakham	MA	templeton	ma	Hubbardston	MA
hubbardston	massachusetts	templeton	mass	Oakham	MA
Millbury	MA	Barre	MA	Tewksbury/Oakh:	MA
West Boylston	MA	Worcester	MA	Barre	MA
Barre	MA	Ashburnham	Ma	New Braintree	MA
Rutland	Ma	winchendon	ma	Holden	MA
RUTLAND	MA	Templeton	Ma	Hubbardston	Massachusetts
Gardner	Mass	athol	MA	hardwick	mass
TEMPLETON	MASS	Wales	ma	Petersham	MA

Rutland	MA	Royalston	MA	Holden	MA
Oakham	MA	Barre	MA	Spencer	MA
Hardwick	MA	Oakham	MA	Oakham	Ma
Barre	MA	Oakham	MA	Winchendon	MA
Worcester	MA	Rutland	MA	Templeton	MA
West Brookfield	MA	Hubbardston	MA	BARRE	MA
Paxton	MA	Spencer	MA	Brookfield	MA
Leicester	MA	Paxton	MA	Templeton	MA
Jefferson	MA	Barre	MA	North Brookfield	MA
Barre	MA	Oakham	MA	ashby	ma
barre	ma	Princeton	MA	Rutland	Massachusetts
Oakham	MA	Hubbardston	MA	Royalston	MA
Oakham	MA	Hubbardston	ma	Phillipston	Mass
Franklin	MA	Holden	MA	Barre	MA
Hingham	MA	Rutland	MA	Oakham	MA
phillipston	mass	Barre	Ma	rutland	ma
Rutland	Ma	Hubbardston	Massachusetts	winchendon	ma
Winchendon	MA	Oakham		Templeton	ma.
Ashburnham	Massachusetts	Petersham	MA	Barre	MA
Orange	Ma.	RUTLAND	MA	Hubbardston	MA
Westminster	Massachusetts	North Brookfield	MA	Auburn	MA
Jefferson	Ma	STERLING	MA	Barre	MA
Phillipston	Massachusetts	Worcester	MA	Barre	MA
Templeton	Massachusetts	New Braintree	MA	BARRE	MA
Oxford	MA	Hubbardston	MA	Hubbardston	MA
Rutland	ma	Rutland	Massachusetts	Oakham	MA
west brookfield	ma.	Rutland	MA	hubbardston	ma
Barre	Ma	Oakham	MA	Hubbardston	MA
Worcester	MA	Hubbardston	MA	Barre	MA
winchendon	ma.	phillipston	ma	barre	ma
Barre	Massachusetts	barre	ma	Hubbardston	MA
Winchendon	Ma	Barre	Ma	Hubbardston	Massachusetts
E.Templeton	MA	Hubbardston	MA	westminster	ma
Westminster	MA				

Public Access and Recreation Survey

How many years have you lived in this town?	
	Response Count
Average	25
Range	1-91
<i>answered question</i>	196
<i>skipped question</i>	6

Response Text						
19	12	24	32	40	22	
49	9	60	11	35	1	
25	20	49	9	4	25	
70	30	25	48	7	11	
20	31	50	20	4	23	
17	17	3	16	39	42	
22	4	15	10	32	32	
3	22	17	28	42	30	
18	47	27	11	16	35	
20	20	24	16	12	15	
72	10	26	3	43	3	
10	25	4	45	40	6	
57	32	6	10	21	23	
20	30	37	40	10	46	
3	15	21	23	49	2	
29	60	45	30	35	20	
25	18	28	1	40	35	
33	22	45	54	19	3	
46	34	18	2	6	6	
76	36	32	37	4	8	
91	4	19	41	1	30	
48	5	12	30	5	18	
33	4	44	25	20	15	
21	55	30	31	9	25	
39	8	3	1	49	35	
29	58	35	15	6	21	
69	53	30	3	10	26	
3	37	13	28	3	20	
15	27	42	6	3	15	
4	22	12	22	10	31	
35	29	20	52	6	5	
56	24	26	30	29	19	
12	34	34	42			

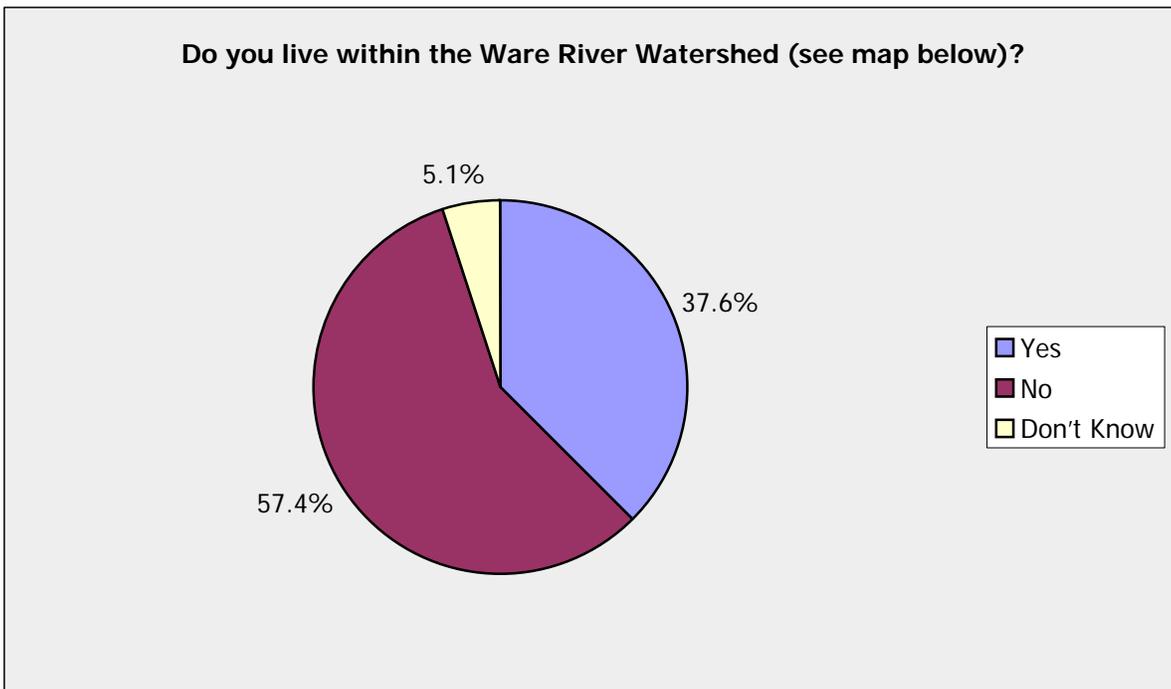
Public Access and Recreation Survey

Age (in years)?		
Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
19-39	25.4%	50
40-49	34.0%	67
50-59	27.9%	55
60-69	8.6%	17
70-79	3.6%	7
80-91	0.5%	1
Average age		47
Range		19-91
<i>answered question</i>		197
<i>skipped question</i>		5

Response Text							
48	57	46	47	29	51	47	
49	58	58	46	54	43	54	
56	53	53	28	26	40	29	
70	50	37	51	42	52	41	
53	44	60	37	48	52	46	
78	35	49	56	48	49	25	
53	40	63	41	25	60	51	
48	56	65	49	58	51	35	
50	57	46	38	29	19	48	
52	47	40	40	46	43	41	
72	42	54	49	52	34	42	
38	34	60	52	32	25	60	
57	47	49	28	36	39	41	
31	46	59	45	51	22	46	
63	51	50	52	52	39	54	
29	60	26	54	40	57	21	
58	39	42	53	42	39	35	
66	62	40	44	30	37	52	
72	57	50	44	33	44	46	
76	60	52	51	29	45	45	
91	42	59	48	58	48	53	
79	50	36	39	61	25	48	
40	64	44	47	28	48	19	
52	49	60	39	36	44		
40	36	54	42	50	26		
64	75	32	41	64	42		
63	30	48	42	51	32		
55	31	57	29	42	30		
38	55	48	34	47	46		

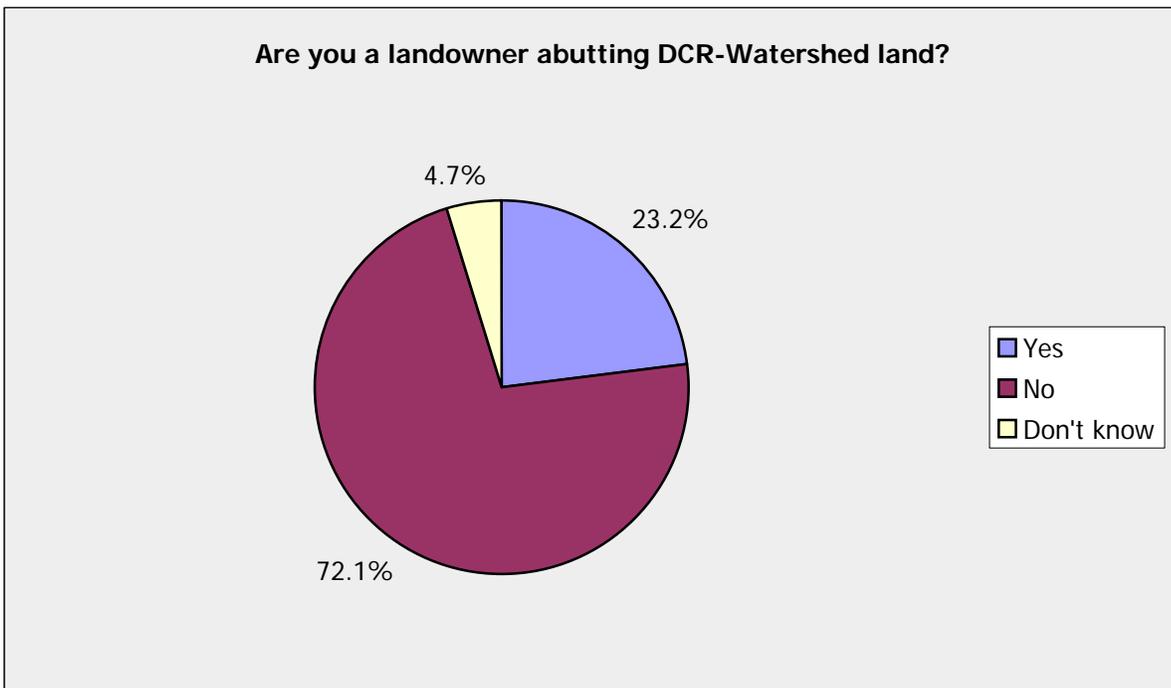
Public Access and Recreation Survey

Do you live within the Ware River Watershed (see map below)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	37.6%	74
No	57.4%	113
Don't Know	5.1%	10
<i>answered question</i>		197
<i>skipped question</i>		5



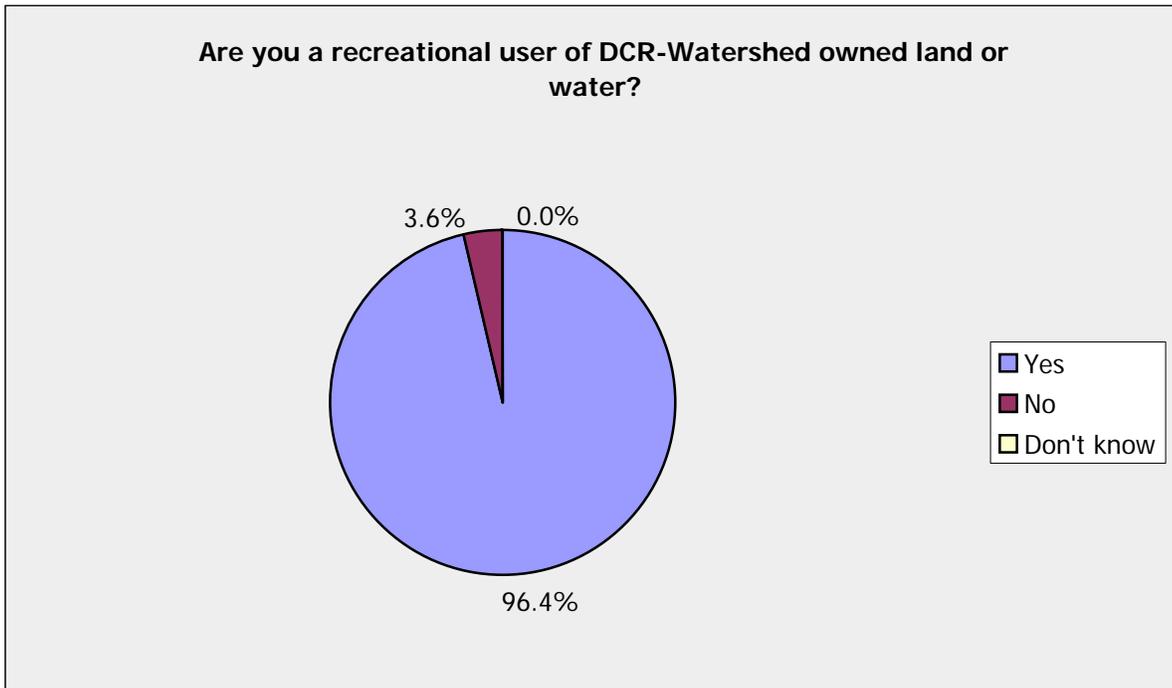
Public Access and Recreation Survey

Are you a landowner abutting DCR-Watershed land?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	23.2%	44
No	72.1%	137
Don't know	4.7%	9
<i>answered question</i>		190
<i>skipped question</i>		12



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Are you a recreational user of DCR-Watershed owned land or water?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	96.4%	188
No	3.6%	7
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		195
<i>skipped question</i>		7



Public Access and Recreation Survey

If boater, where else do you use your boat (check any that apply):

Answer Options	Response Count
Lake Ontario	2
Lake Champlain	2
Lake Winnepesaukee	15
CT River	21
Other - List Other - List	53
<i>answered question</i>	
53	
<i>skipped question</i>	
146	

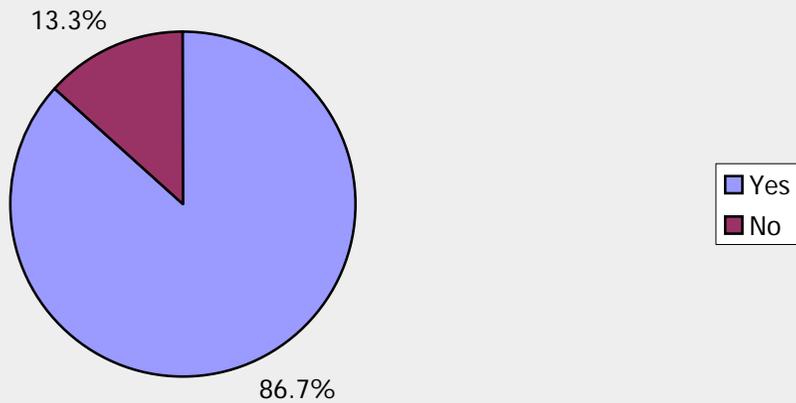
Other - List	Other - List
Onota Lake, Pontussuc Lake	naukeag lake ashburnham,
lake congamond	Lower naukeg, Ashburnham, MA
Long Pond, Quinsigimund, Quabbin	atlantic ocean
Wyman Lake	mooseheadlake
Quabbin, Comet Pond	Rutland SP
comet pond, lake Mal	Big Allum lake in Sturbridge Ma.
Long Pond, Rutland, MA	Central Mass lakes and ponds
atlantic ocean	Lake George, NY
Wallum Lake- Douglas	Quaboag, Tulley Lake, Comet
Hudson	Rocky Pond - Boylston, Lake
North Atlantic Ocean	local lakes
asnacomet pond, quabbin res	Lake Willoughby, VT
Long Pond	Thompson Pond in Spencer
Quabbin, comet pond	Local and out of state waters
Long Pond	Cape Cod
Lake Singletary-Sutton, Comet Pond, Quinsigimond,	Quabbin
local lakes	Comet Pond
Island Pond-Vermont, Long Pond-Rutland	Cape Cod
comet pond, quabbin, south & quabog ponds	Lake Sebago
Sebec Lake, Maine	Thompson Pond in Spencer
Long Pond	Lake Sebago
Lake George	whymons pond westminster
Quabbin, Comet, Many, many more	long pond
South Pond, Big A	Queen Lake, Phillipston, Mass
LAKE GEORGE, LAKE WAUSHACUM, LONG POND	Salt water
Quabbin, Brooks, Shows, Ware River, Quabog River	webster lake
small local lakes and ponds in and around Hubbardston	

Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that the Ware River contributes water to the Quabbin Reservoir, an unfiltered public drinking water supply?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	86.7%	169
No	13.3%	26
<i>answered question</i>		195
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Did you know that the Ware River contributes water to the Quabbin Reservoir, an unfiltered public drinking water supply?

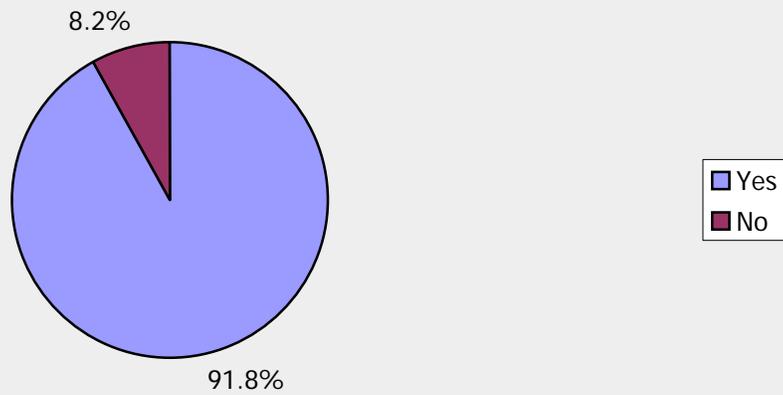


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed provides the drinking water to 2.5 million people primarily in the Boston metropolitan area, and to 3 central MA communities?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.8%	180
No	8.2%	16
<i>answered question</i>		196
<i>skipped question</i>		6

Did you know that DCR-Watershed provides the drinking water to 2.5 million people primarily in the Boston metropolitan area, and to 3 central MA communities?

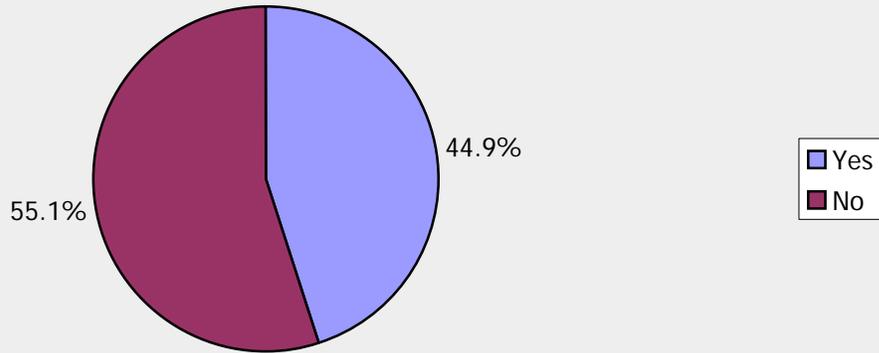


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed and its activities are funded through water bill payments and not general taxes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.9%	88
No	55.1%	108
<i>answered question</i>		196
<i>skipped question</i>		6

Did you know that DCR-Watershed and its activities are funded through water bill payments and not general taxes?

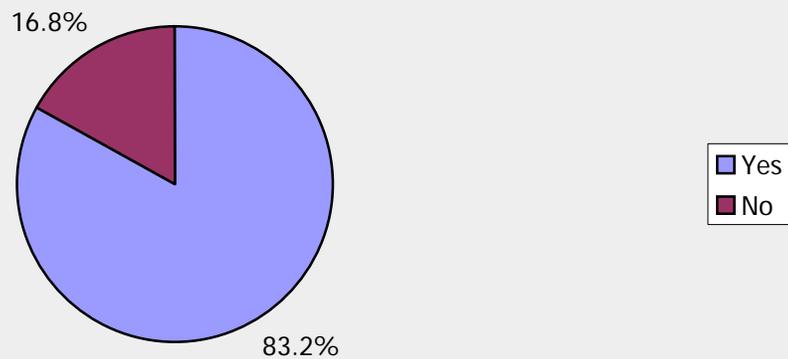


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that the DCR-Watershed lands are a public resource comprised primarily of lands taken specifically for drinking water supply protection?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	83.2%	163
No	16.8%	33
<i>answered question</i>		196
<i>skipped question</i>		6

Did you know that the DCR-Watershed lands are a public resource comprised primarily of lands taken specifically for drinking water supply protection?

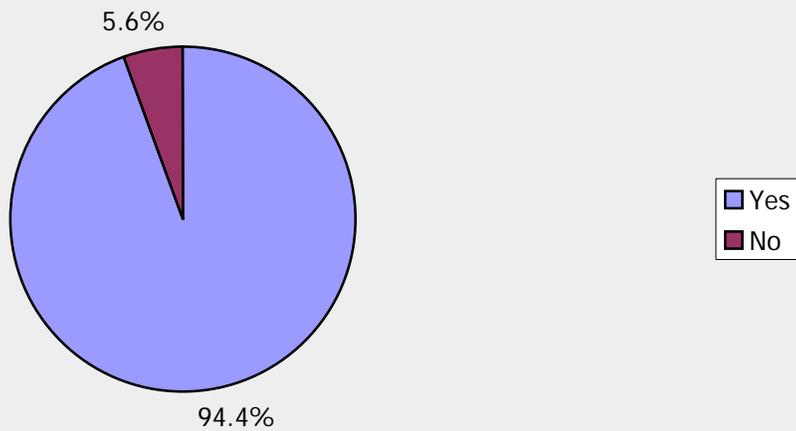


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that these water supply lands are managed by a state agency and not a private corporation?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	94.4%	186
No	5.6%	11
<i>answered question</i>		197
<i>skipped question</i>		5

Did you know that these water supply lands are managed by a state agency and not a private corporation?

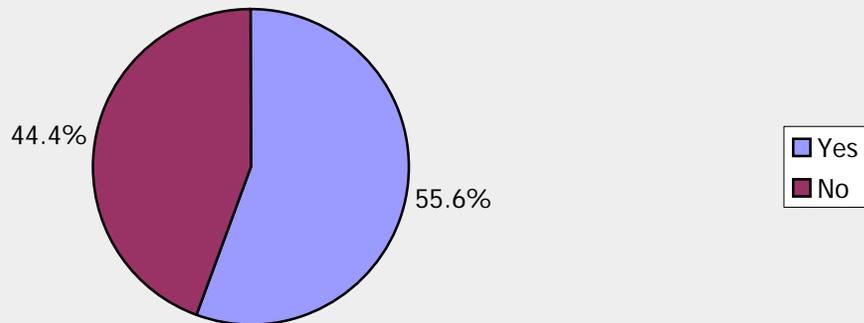


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that there are two different Divisions responsible for managing DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed: DCR-Watershed (formerly MDC) and DCR-State Parks (formerly DEM)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.6%	109
No	44.4%	87
<i>answered question</i>		196
<i>skipped question</i>		6

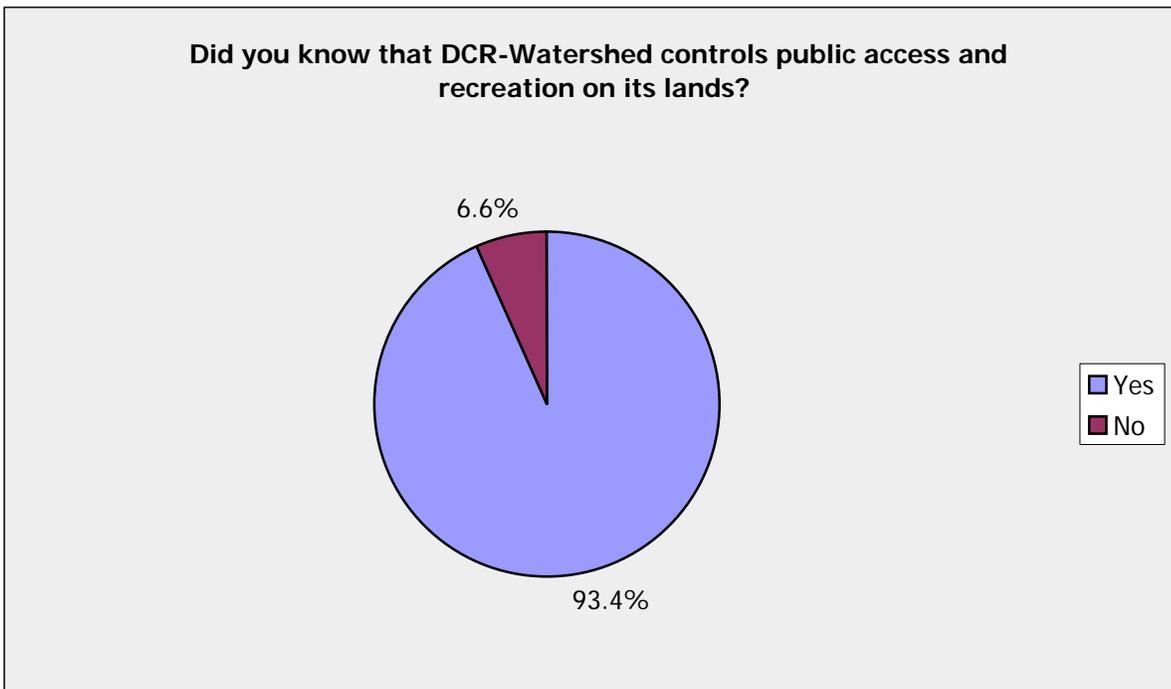
Did you know that there are two different Divisions responsible for managing DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed: DCR-Watershed (formerly MDC) and DCR-State Parks (formerly DEM)?



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed controls public access and recreation on its lands?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	93.4%	185
No	6.6%	13
<i>answered question</i>		198
<i>skipped question</i>		4

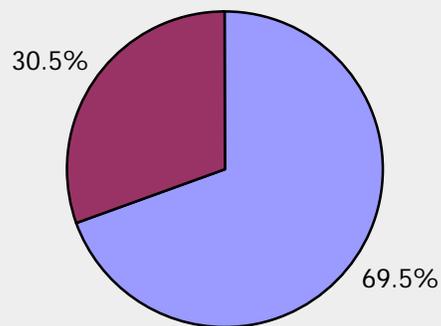


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that there is a greater variety of recreational opportunities in Ware River, Watershed compared to Quabbin or Wachusett Watershed?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	69.5%	137
No	30.5%	60
<i>answered question</i>		197
<i>skipped question</i>		5

Did you know that there is a greater variety of recreational opportunities in Ware River, Watershed compared to Quabbin or Wachusett Watershed?

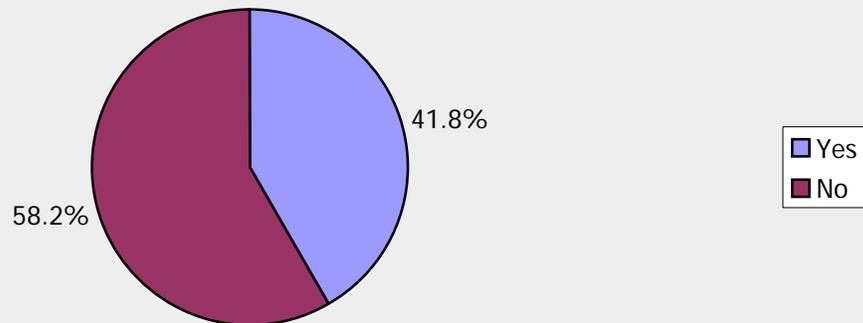


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed's green-certified forest management is developing multi-species, multi-aged forest cover for drinking water quality protection?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	41.8%	81
No	58.2%	113
<i>answered question</i>		194
<i>skipped question</i>		8

Did you know that DCR-Watershed's green-certified forest management is developing multi-species, multi-aged forest cover for drinking water quality protection?

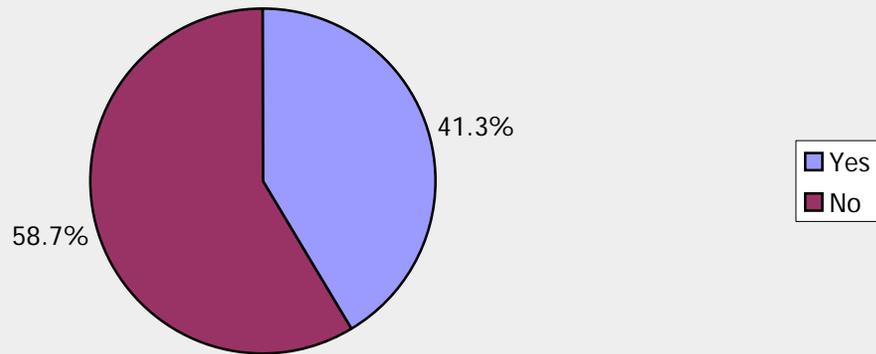


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that revenues generated from this forest management program are used for watershed management purposes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	41.3%	81
No	58.7%	115
<i>answered question</i>		196
<i>skipped question</i>		6

Did you know that revenues generated from this forest management program are used for watershed management purposes?

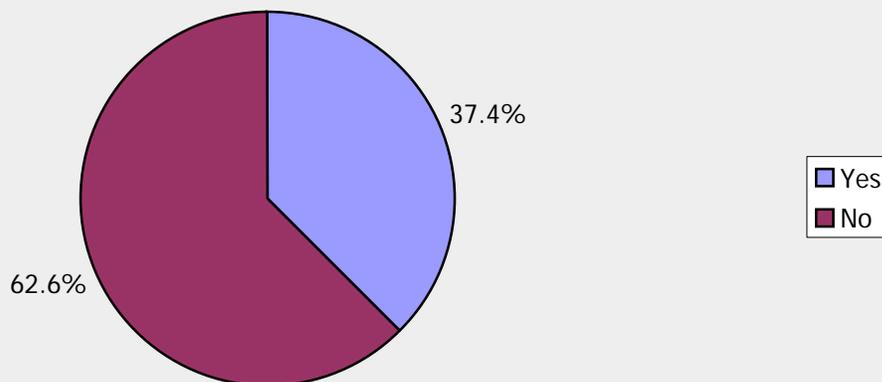


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that the DCR-Watershed makes annual payments in-lieu-of taxes of nearly \$1 million dollars to Ware River watershed towns that contain property owned by the Commonwealth of MA for drinking water supply and protection? (Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland and Templeton)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	37.4%	73
No	62.6%	122
<i>answered question</i>		195
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Did you know that the DCR-Watershed makes annual payments in-lieu-of taxes of nearly \$1 million dolalrs to Ware River watershed towns that contain property owned by the Commonwealth of MA for drinking water supply and protection?

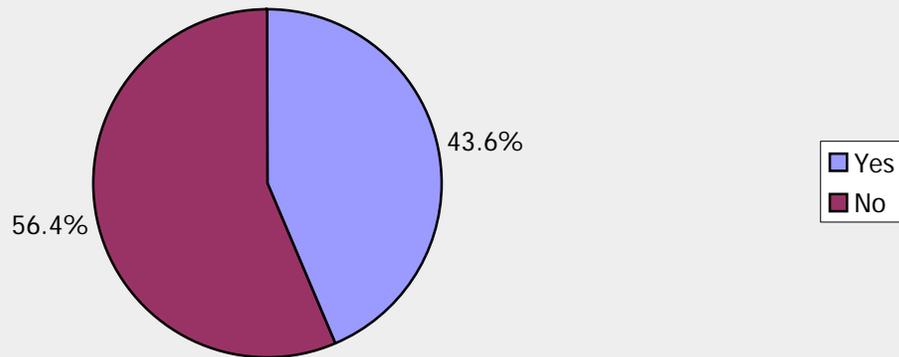


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Did you know that there is a legislatively created advisory group, the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC), comprised of town residents historical societies and recreational groups to advise the DCR-Watershed on its recreation and management policies in the Ware River Watershed?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	43.6%	85
No	56.4%	110
<i>answered question</i>		195
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Did you know that there is a legislatively created advisory group, the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC), comprised of town resident, historical societies, and recreational groups to advise the DCR-Watershed?

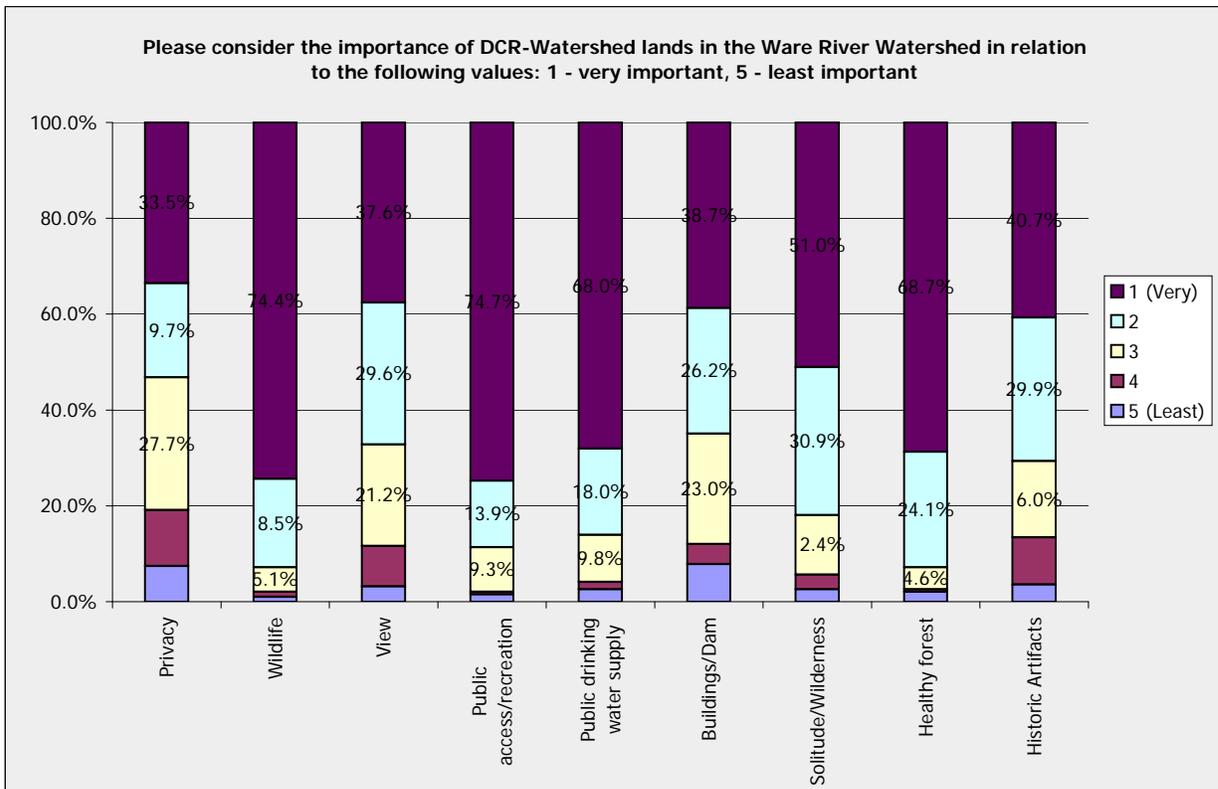


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Please consider the importance of DCR-Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed in relation to the following values: 1 - very important, 5 - least important

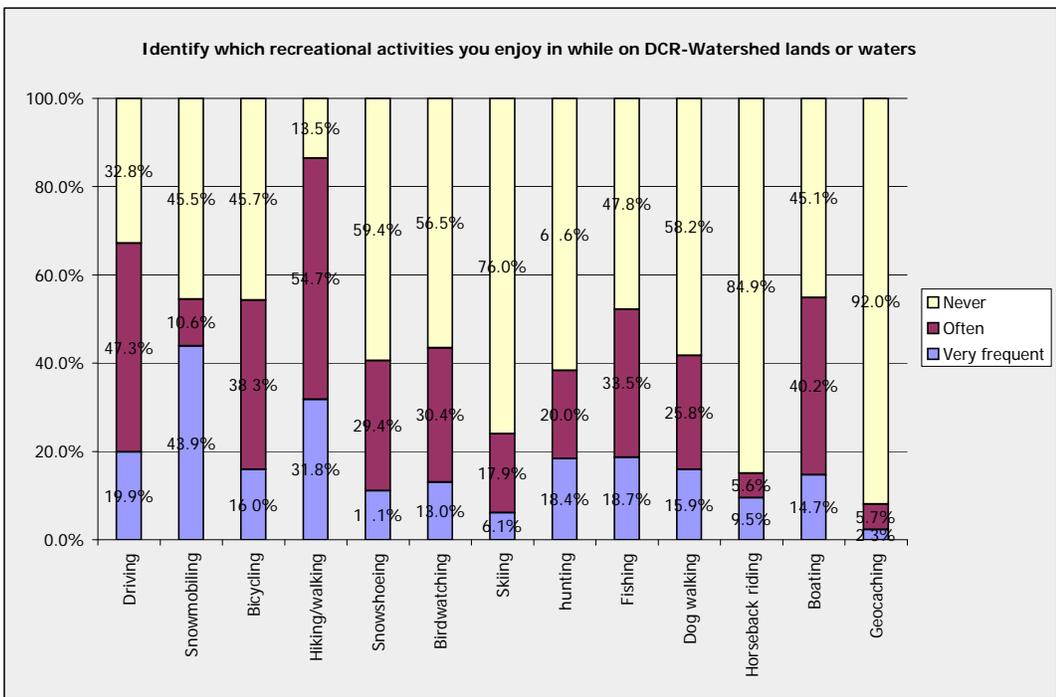
Answer Options	1 (Very)	2	3	4	5 (Least)	Rank	Response Count
Privacy	33.5% 63	19.7% 37	27.7% 52	11.7% 22	7.4% 14	2.40	188
Wildlife	74.4% 145	18.5% 36	5.1% 10	1.0% 2	1.0% 2	1.36	195
View	37.6% 71	29.6% 56	21.2% 40	8.5% 16	3.2% 6	2.10	189
Public access/recreation	74.7% 145	13.9% 27	9.3% 18	0.5% 1	1.5% 3	1.40	194
Public drinking water supply	68.0% 132	18.0% 35	9.8% 19	1.5% 3	2.6% 5	1.53	194
Buildings/Dam	38.7% 74	26.2% 50	23.0% 44	4.2% 8	7.9% 15	2.16	191
Solitude/Wilderness	51.0% 99	30.9% 60	12.4% 24	3.1% 6	2.6% 5	1.75	194
Healthy forest	68.7% 134	24.1% 47	4.6% 9	0.5% 1	2.1% 4	1.43	195
Historic Artifacts	40.7% 79	29.9% 58	16.0% 31	9.8% 19	3.6% 7	2.06	194
<i>answered question</i>							195
<i>skipped question</i>							7

Ranking					
1 (Very)	2	3	4	5 (Least)	Rank
63	74	156	88	70	2.40
145	72	30	8	10	1.36
71	112	120	64	30	2.10
145	54	54	4	15	1.40
132	70	57	12	25	1.53
74	100	132	32	75	2.16
99	120	72	24	25	1.75
134	94	27	4	20	1.43
79	116	93	76	35	2.06



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Identify which recreational activities you enjoy in while on DCR-Watershed lands or waters							
Answer Options	Never		Often		Very frequent		Response Count
Driving	32.8%	61	47.3%	88	19.9%	37	186
Snowmobiling	45.5%	86	10.6%	20	43.9%	83	189
Bicycling	45.7%	86	38.3%	72	16.0%	30	188
Hiking/walking	13.5%	26	54.7%	105	31.8%	61	192
Snowshoeing	59.4%	107	29.4%	53	11.1%	20	180
Birdwatching	56.5%	104	30.4%	56	13.0%	24	184
Skiing	76.0%	136	17.9%	32	6.1%	11	179
hunting	61.6%	114	20.0%	37	18.4%	34	185
Fishing	47.8%	87	33.5%	61	18.7%	34	182
Dog walking	58.2%	106	25.8%	47	15.9%	29	182
Horseback riding	84.9%	152	5.6%	10	9.5%	17	179
Boating	45.1%	83	40.2%	74	14.7%	27	184
Geocaching	92.0%	160	5.7%	10	2.3%	4	174
Other (List)							15
<i>answered question</i>							197
<i>skipped question</i>							5



Other (List)
Mountain biking on singletrack -- not just roads
Seeking out historical artifacts (cellarholes, etc.).
Recreational relaxation
swimming in Rutland SP, watertubes/skiing in Long Pond
Botany
Mountain Biking
Picnic, bareback riding, sloping, spooning, and naping
Star gazing
Horse and carriage very often
snowmobiling
Trail maintenance, With orginsation that work with the DCR to maintain the parks
Butterflying; Wild Flowering
botanizing
Monitoring hawk migration
atv

Public Access and Recreation Survey

Please list the type of recreational user you are: (e.g., Hunter, Boater, Hiker, Biker, Horseback rider, etc.).

Answer Options	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	191
<i>skipped question</i>	11

Response Text	Response Text
hiker, birdwatcher	mountain biker. XC skiing, hiking
hunter, fisherman, wildlife watcher	Hiker, Fisherman
Horseback Rider	Mountain Biker and Hiker
hiker	biker
Hunter	hunter
hiker, biker, horse back, horse driving	mostly hiking
hiker	boater, hiker
Mountain bikers, XC skier	hunter, boater
Active Outdoorsman - Mountain Biker, XC Skier, Snowshoer, Hiker	hunter, boater, fisherman
Walker	boater, hunter, fisherman
kayaking, biking	Hunter, Hiker, Fisherman, Biker
kayaker, snowshoer, hunter, fisherman,	Hiking, snowshoeing, horseback rider,
boat, hiker, biker	hunter boater
hiker, biker, kayaker, skier, snowshoer	boater with a 25HP, 4-Stroke boat,
hiker, biker, kayaker	boater, hiker, biker
hiker, nordic & alpine skier	Naturalist
hunter, fisherman, hiker and geocacher	hunter, boater, fishing, hiking walking
hunter, fisher, hiker	biker, kayaker
biker, hunter, fisher, hiker	fishing
currently none- retired	hunter, biker, hiker
naturalist	hunter, fisherman, boater
boater, hiker, fishing, swimming	hunter, fisherman, boater, hiker
Boater	boater
outdoorsman, hunter hiker	hunter
hunter, hiker, biker	walker
hunter, boater	Biker
fisherman, hunter	hiker, boater, biker, horseback rider
biker, hiker, canoe	biker, hiker
PASSIVE	hiker and biker
hiker, boater	Hiker/Walker
Hiker/walker	Hunter, boater, hiker, snow shoe,
Biker	BIOLOGIST
boater, hiker, biker	hunter, fisher, snowmobile, atv
Mountain Biker, Hunter, Fisherman	HIKER, BOATER, BIKER
Hunter/Hiker	boater
hunter boater hiker fisherman	boating, fishing
Horseback rider, hiker, snowshoer	Hiker, canoe
Horseback rider	Hiker, Biker, Hunter
snowmobiler	hunter, boater, hiker, horseback rider
boater ,hiker,biker,snowmobiler	hiker
Snowmobiler	Horseback rider
Snowmobiling	most frequently visited as a Horseback

SNOWMOBILER	horseback rider
Snowmobiling, canoeing, hikeing	Horseback Rider/Hiker
biker / snowmobiler	horseback rider
Boater, Hiker, & Snowmobiler	horseback rider
SNOWMOBILER	Horseback rider
snowmobiler/hiker	biker,hiker,horseback
Horseback rider, hiker, dog walking	Hunter, Snowmobiler, Biker. Hiker,
snowbile rider	hunter Hiker, snowmobiler
snowmobiler	Boater, snowmobiler
outdoorsman	snowmobiler
biking, snowmobiling, skiing, boating	Snowmobiling
Boater, Snowmobiler	snowmobiler
snowmobiler, hiker	Snowmobiler, Boater
hiker, snowmobiler, hunter	Snowmobiler
multiple	Snowmobiler, Hiker
boater,snowmobiler,hunter	snowmobiling
Snowmobiler	Natural historian; educator (I take
Snowmobiler, Hiker, Hunter	Birder, Hiker
snowmobiling,fishing, boating	wildlife viewing
hunter,boater and snowmobiling	Birder
I am an avid snowmobiler, mountian biker,hiker	hiker, boater, kayaker
Snowmobiler	naturalist
snowmobiling	Birdwatcher, Hiker
Snowmobiler, Biker, Kayaker	horseback rider
hiker, biker, snowmobiler	Snowmobiler
hunter,, fisherman,snowmobiling	Boater,Bicycler,snowmobiling,X country
hunter snowmobiler	Birdwatcher
Hunter, Boater, Snowmobiling, Bikeing	snowmobiling
snowmobiler	boater, hiker, horseback rider
Snowmobiler & Hiker	Rider
snowmobiling	Snowmobile
snowmobiler	hunter, fisherman, hiker, boater,
Snowmobiler/Hiker/Trail Maintenance/Trimming	hunter, biker, snowmobiler,
Snowmobiler	snowmobile, and road legal dirt biking
snowmobiler hiker birder	Boater, Birdwatcher, Angler
Fisherman	snowmobiler
snowmobiler,hiker fisherman	Horseback rider/snowmobiler/hiker
snowmobiler	snowmobiler
Smowmobiler	HORSEBACK RIDER
Hunter, Fisherman, Snowmobiler, Hiker	Hiker, bicyclist
Snowmobiler	snowmobiler - fishing
snowmobiler	Hiker, snowmobile
snowmobiler	hiker,fisherman, snowmobiler
snowmobiler	snowmobiler, hiker, dog walker, bird
ATV, snowmobile	Snowmobiler, mountain bicker
Snowmobiler	Rabbit & bird hunter
snowmobiler	Hunter
SNOWMOBILING	Hunter, boater,
snowmobiler,hiker.dog walker etc.	all of above
Snowmobiler	hiker, dog walker, bird watcher,
snowmobiler	hunter, boater, snowmobiler
hunter,snowmobiler	snowmobiler
hikier, snowmobiler	boater snowmobiler
Hiker, Biker, Snowmobiler Boater	

Public Access and Recreation Survey

If you conduct your recreational activity with other people, how many people are in your group on DCR-Watershed land?

	Response Count
Average	14
Range	1-500
<i>answered question</i>	164
<i>skipped question</i>	38

Response Text				
8	2	2	4	4
1	10	2	10	8
10	4	8	4	2
6	4	20	2	3
2	5	6	25	3
2	3	4	100	4
5	3	3	2	100
10	2	2	5	15
25	10	2	20	3
2	6	5	10	5
2	2	4	6	10
2	3	3	8	6
5	2	100	2	2
2	2	4	2	20
30	6	5	4	2
1	2	4	10	6
3	6	6	5	5
4	1	2	500	125
2	10	4	20	2
30	2	4	3	3
2	24	5	5	2
4	2	5	2	4
2	5	3	8	10
2	2	200	10	4
2	2	5	200	2
1	4	8	4	2
3	4	2	100	2
5	4	10	2	2
5	10	6	5	20
4	4	1	2	2
2	2	4	6	5
2	6	4	60	5
5	3	8	10	

Public Access and Recreation Survey

If group(s), list name(s)?	
	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	80
<i>skipped question</i>	122

Response Text	Response Text
Wachusett Greenways, Barre Riding & Oakham Historical Association	Coldbrooke Snowmobile Club
appalachian mountian club	Coldbrook Snowmobile Club
Midstate Trail Committe	coldbrook snowmobile club
wife and grandkids	coldbrook snow club
Athol Bird and Nature Club	
Wife, Pam, Jim	Coldbrook Snowmobile Club
DNA	coldbrook snowmobile club
New England Mountain Bike Association	Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts
scouts	coldbrook snowmobile club and Geocaching
family	Coldbrook snowmobilers
wife and grandkids	Coldbrook snowmobilers
PMBR	Coldbrock Snowmobile Club
Wachusett Greenways	Spencer Snowbirds, Coldbrook Snowmobile Club
I sometimes bring my Girl Scout Troop	coldbrook snowmobile club
husband & wife	Mass Audubon
family	Nature classes through Mass Aubudon
family	Forbush Bird Club, Mass Audubon
	Hawk Migration Association of North America, Forbush Bird Club
Barre Riding and Driving Club	Coldbrook snowmobile club members
Barre Riding and Driving Club (horses)	ColdBrook snowmobile Club
Barre Riding and Driving Club, Central	coldbrook snowmobile club
coldbrook snowmobile club	Coldbrook Snowmobile Club
COLDBROOK SNOWMOBILE CLUB	coldbrook snomobile club
Coldbrook snowmobile club	colebrook snowmobile club
S.A.M.	coldbrook snowmobile club
COLDBROOK SNOWMOBILE CLUB	coldbrook snowmobile club
Coldbrook Snowmobile Club	Coldbrook snowmobile club
Individuals that live in the watershed	coldbrook snowmobile club
coldbrook snowmobile club	
Coldbrook Snowmobile Club	coldbrook snowmobilers
coldbrook snowmobile cluc	Mostly just my family but also the Spencer Snowbirds
coldbrook snowmobile club members	Coldbrook Snowmobile club
	Coldbrook Snowmobile club
coldbrook snowmobile club - private	Coldbrook Snowmobile Club, Ware River Snowmobile
my family and friends	Coldbrook Snowmobile Club
Coldbrook Snowmobile Club	
Coldbrook Snowmobile Club	Coldbrook Snowmobile club
	Family
Coldbrook Snowmobile Club	coldbrook snowmobile club

Public Access and Recreation Survey

How many times do you use DCR-Watershed lands per year?

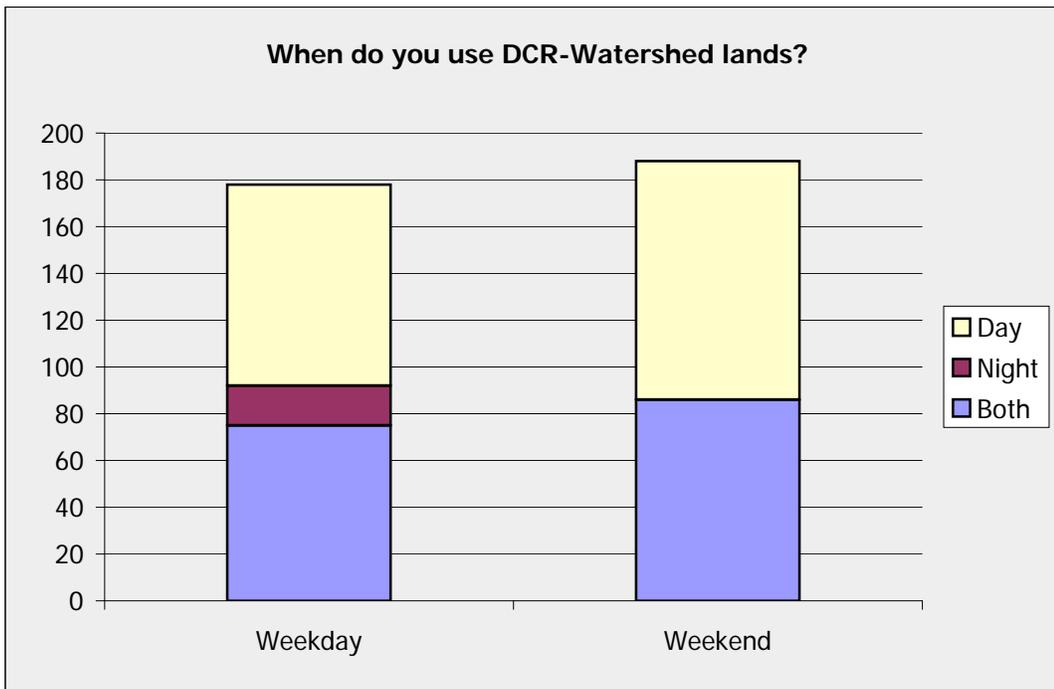
		Response Percentage	Response Count
Average	33		
Range	1-100		
<10		16.5%	29
10<25		36.9%	65
25<50		16.5%	29
>50		30.1%	53
<i>answered question</i>			176
<i>skipped question</i>			26

Response Text							
5	12	12	15	50	8	25	
6	50	52	60	15	25	12	
5	50	100	12	30	30	50	
10	50	100	20	50	24	50	
25	6	30	30	25	25	20	
5	10	100	60	15	20	10	
1	20	5	30	20	4	45	
5	6	30	60	50	12	10	
5	10	90	100	25	3	20	
20	15	50	100	15	12	8	
5	20	52	6	15	20	12	
70	100	12	8	25	25	1	
60	25	20	100	10	25	20	
12	100	100	50	50	50	100	
15	60	25	10	20	20		
100	25	15	10	50	25		
12	15	10	100	100	10		
12	20	12	30	20	3		
5	50	100	85	20	40		
2	20	40	100	20	100		
2	75	12	50	100	10		
12	4	100	25	20	2		
8	1	10	24	50	10		
50	6	30	80	20	50		
30	20	40	50	50	50		
12	12	20	20	6	50		
20	12	50	5	25	35		

Public Access and Recreation Survey

When do you use DCR-Watershed lands?

Answer Options	Day	Night	Both	Response Count
Weekday	86	17	75	178
Weekend	102	0	86	188
<i>answered question</i>				196
<i>skipped question</i>				6

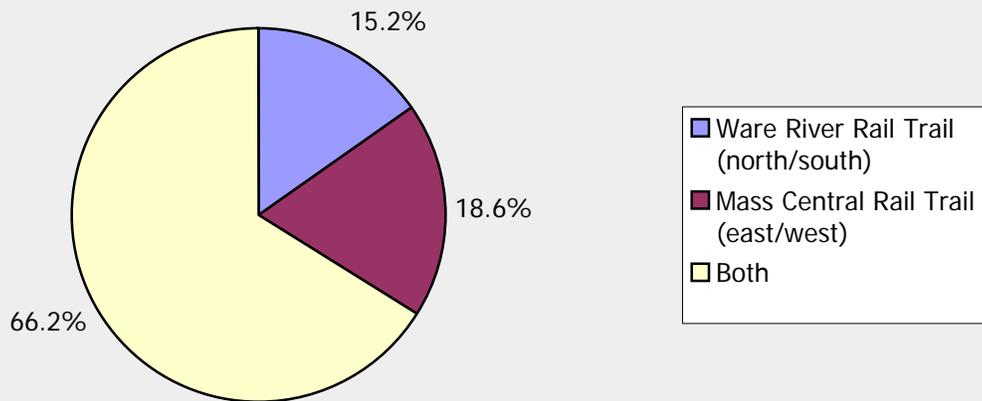


Public Access and Recreation Survey

Do you use either or both rail trails in Ware River Watershed?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Ware River Rail Trail (north/south)	15.2%	22
Mass Central Rail Trail (east/west)	18.6%	27
Both	66.2%	96
<i>answered question</i>		145
<i>skipped question</i>		57

Do you use either or both rail trails in Ware River Watershed?



Public Access and Recreation Survey

What types of recreational activities do you participate in on rail trails? List

	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	139
<i>skipped question</i>	63

Response Text
Horseback riding
hiking
hiking
walking, biking, XC skiing
biking
Walking
bicycle
Hiking, snowshoeing, bike riding
biking, hiking
hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing
biking, walking
hiking and geogaching
biking hiking
walking
birding
biking
walking
biking,hiking
walking, hiking, bicycling
Biking, skiing, snow shoeing, running, walking
biking
hiking
hiking
Riding
walk, bike
birdwatching
walking
biking, walking
hiking
biking
Horseback/Trail riding, snowmobiling, bike riding
horse back riding, walking
Hiking and horseback riding

Response Text
Maintaining trails with Coldbrook snowmobile club
snowmobile, atv
snowmobile, hike, trail maintenance
trail clearing, snowmobiling
snowmobiles
Snowmobiling, hiking, biking
snowmobiling
walking,snowmobiling
snowmobiling
Snowmobiling, hiking, Biking
snowmobiling cleaning&building of trail system
snowmobile, hiking, dog walking
Bike , walk
Snowmobiling
Walking myself & dog
Snowmobiling
Snowmobiling
Walking
Bicycling, hiking, snowmobiling
Hiking, mountain biking, bird/wildlife viewing
I use the rail trail as an access point for mountain biking.
bike, cross-country ski
biking
hike, bike, dog walk
biking, walking
hike, hunt
BIKING, WILDLIFE VIEWING, WALKING
BIKING
hiking, biking
bike, ski, walking
Dog walking
snowmobiling, walking, hiking, boating
snowmobiling, and trailwork

walk, bike, ride
horseback ride, X-country skiing
horseback riding
hiking, horseback riding
biking, walking
walking
bike ,hike, snowmobile
snowmobile
Snowmobiling
SNOWMOBILE AND HUNTING
Bikeing, hikeing
biking/ hiking/ snowmobile
hiking
BIKE, SNOWMOBILE
hiking
hiking, dog walking, horseback riding, biking
Snowmobiling
snowmobileing
biking, snowmobileing, skiing, hiking
walking biking
Snowmobiles
snowmobiling
Snowmobiling
biking, hiking, snowmobile
snowmobiling,Biking,walking
Snowmobiling
Snowmobiling and Hiking and trail maintainence
snowmobiling
snowmobiling, biking, snowshoeing, hiking
Snowmobiling, trail clearing and clean up -- coldbrook snowmobile club
Snowmobile
snowmobing
Biking, Snowmobiling (assuming that is the same trail)
biking, walking
snowmobile trail maintenance
help repair trails and use them
Snowmobile

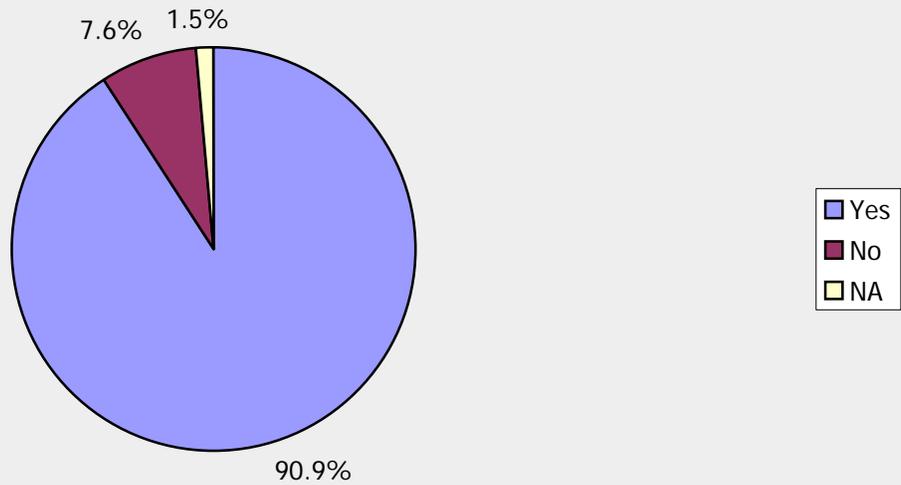
snowmobiling, hiking, biking, walking, boating
snowmobiling
Snowmobiling
help maintain trails
Snowmobiling
snowmobiling
Help maintain trails for snowmobile use (e.g. clearing dangerous brush, etc.)
snowmobile
nature observation
Birding, hiking
Birding
dog walking, walking , bicycling
walking
snowmobiling
snowmobiling-trail maintaince
Snowmobiling/Hiking/Maintenance
snowmobile
snowmobile
hiking
i help maintane the trail system within rutland, wrrt, and lake dennison
Snowmobile
Trail Work, Hiking
snowmobiling
snowmobile
snowmobile, and road legal dirt biking
Birdwatching, Hiking
hiking, biking
Snowmobile and horseback riding
snowmobiling
WALKING DOG
walking, snowshoeing, bicycling
snowmobiling - help maintain trails w/ coldbrook club
hiking, dog walking, snowmobiling, maintaining trails for snowmobiling
walking
Biking, Snowmobiling

Public Access and Recreation Survey

Are you aware that there are designated trails (e.g. Snowmobile, Horseback riding) on DCR-Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	90.9%	180
No	7.6%	15
NA	1.5%	3
<i>answered question</i>		198
<i>skipped question</i>		4

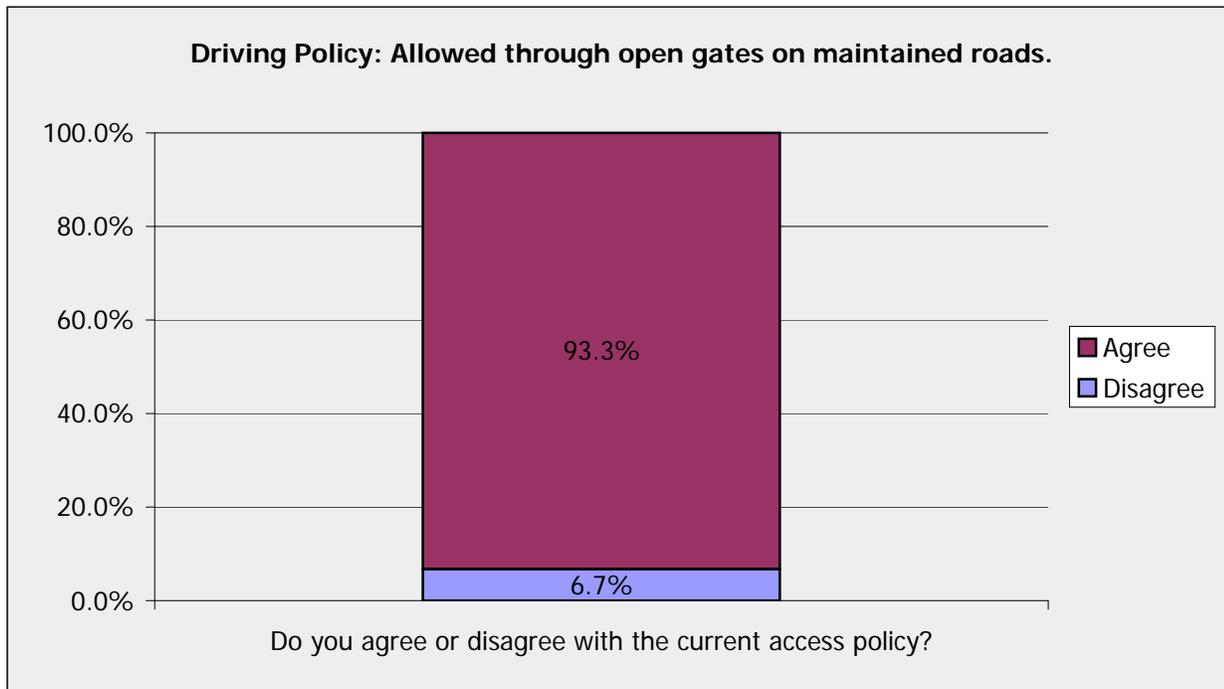
Are you aware that there are designated trails (e.g. Snowmobile, Horseback riding) on DCR-Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed?



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Driving Policy: Allowed through open gates on maintained roads.

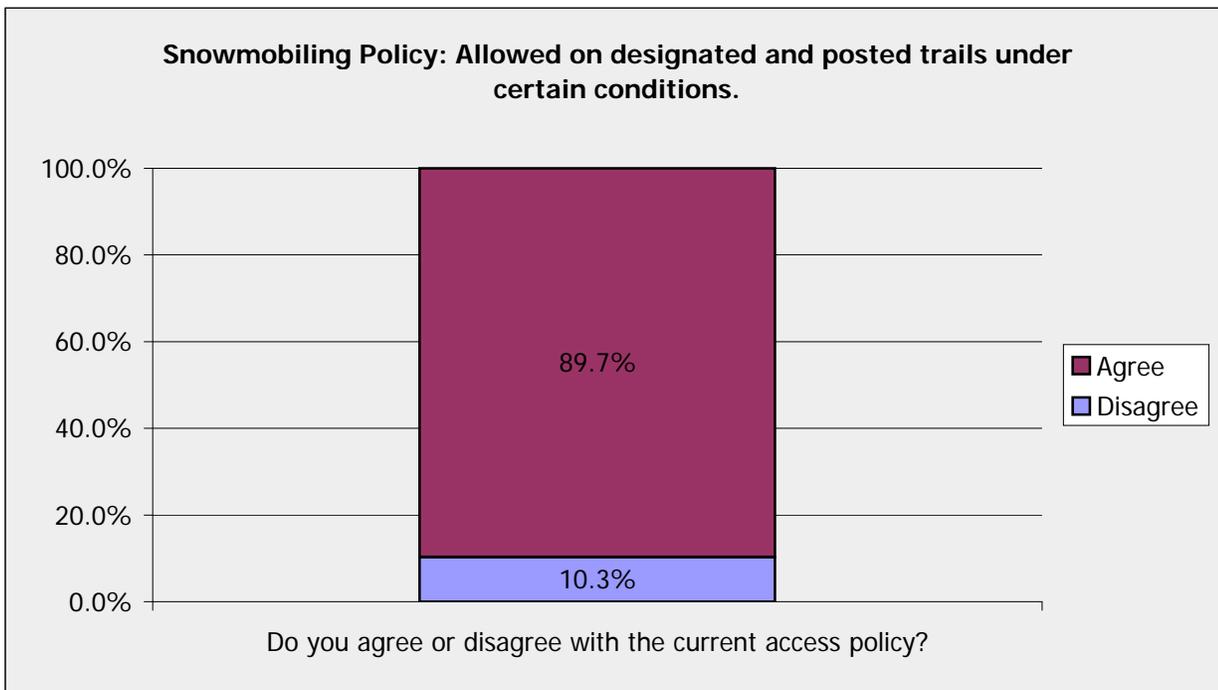
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	93.3%	180	6.7%	13	193
<i>answered question</i>					193
<i>skipped question</i>					9



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Snowmobiling Policy: Allowed on designated and posted trails under certain conditions.

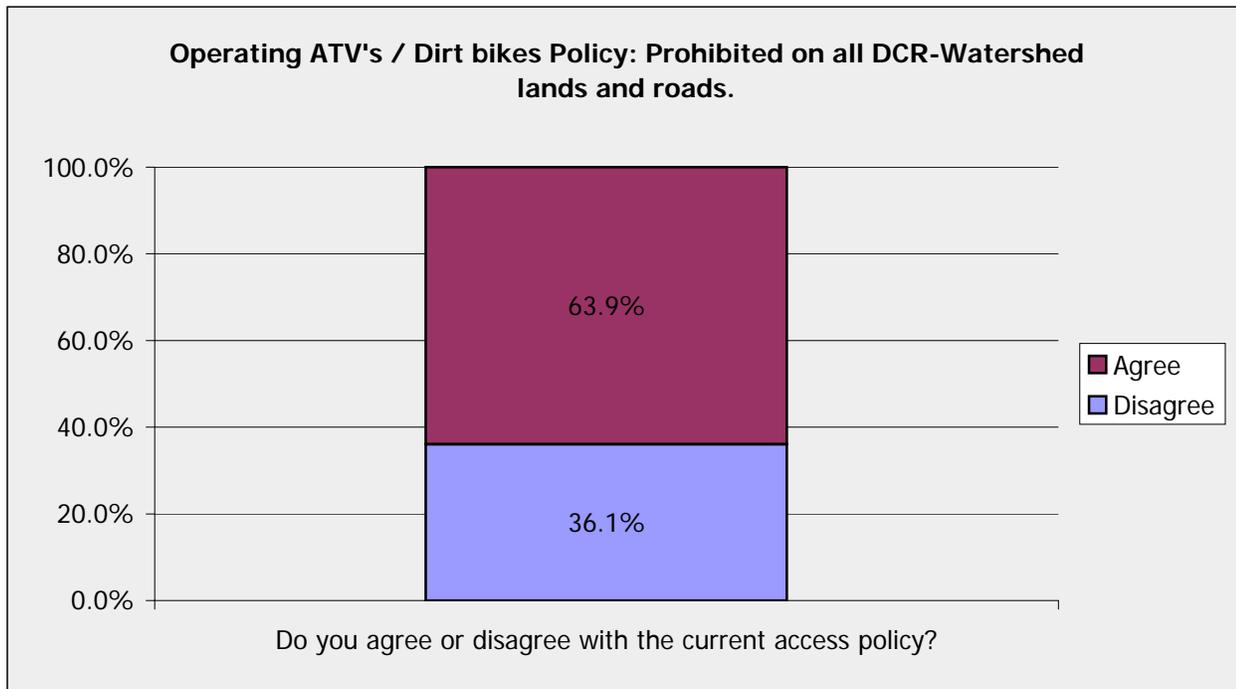
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	89.7%	174	10.3%	20	194
<i>answered question</i>					194
<i>skipped question</i>					8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Operating ATV's / Dirt bikes Policy: Prohibited on all DCR-Watershed lands and roads.

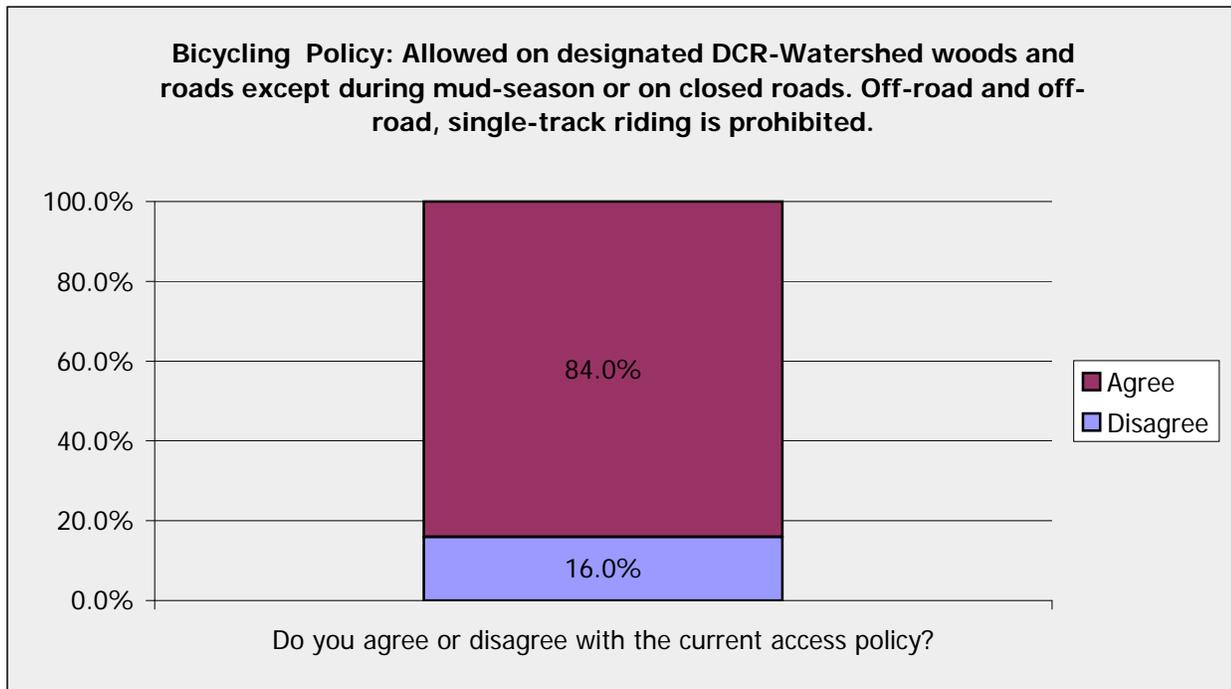
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	63.9%	124	36.1%	70	194
	<i>answered question</i>				194
	<i>skipped question</i>				8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Bicycling Policy: Allowed on designated DCR-Watershed woods and roads except during mud-season or on closed roads. Off-road and off-road, single-track riding is prohibited.

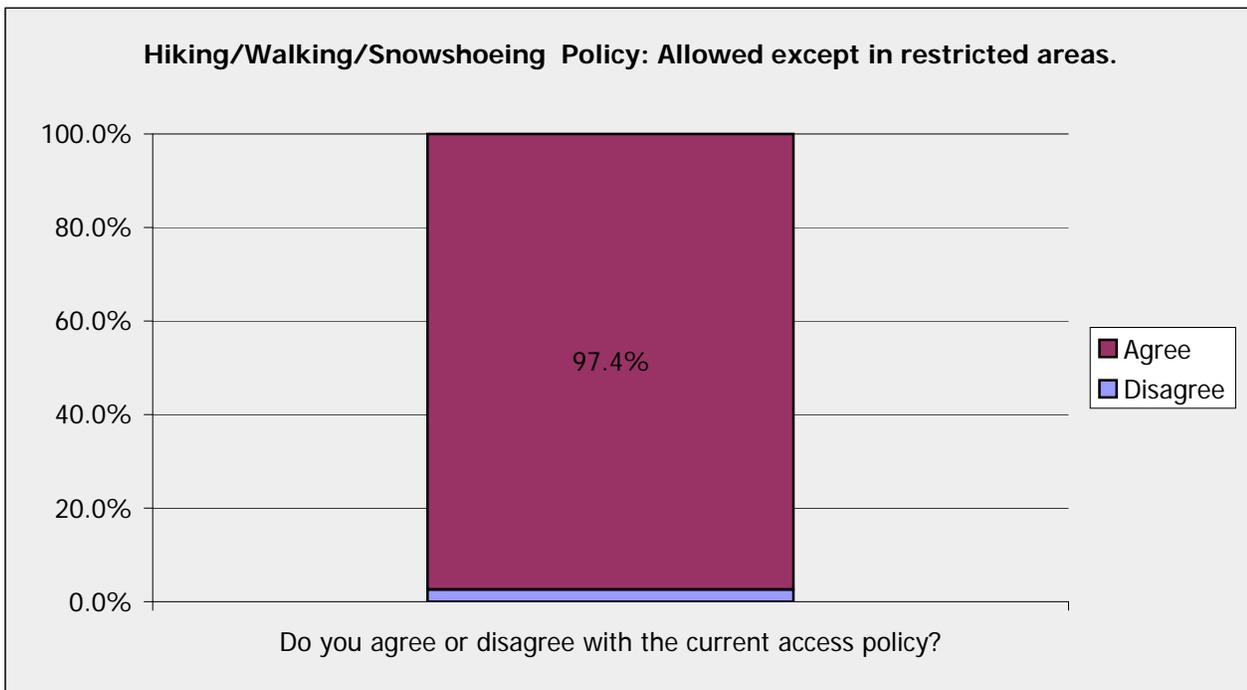
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	84.0%	163	16.0%	31	194
	<i>answered question</i>				194
	<i>skipped question</i>				8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Hiking/Walking/Snowshoeing Policy: Allowed except in restricted areas.

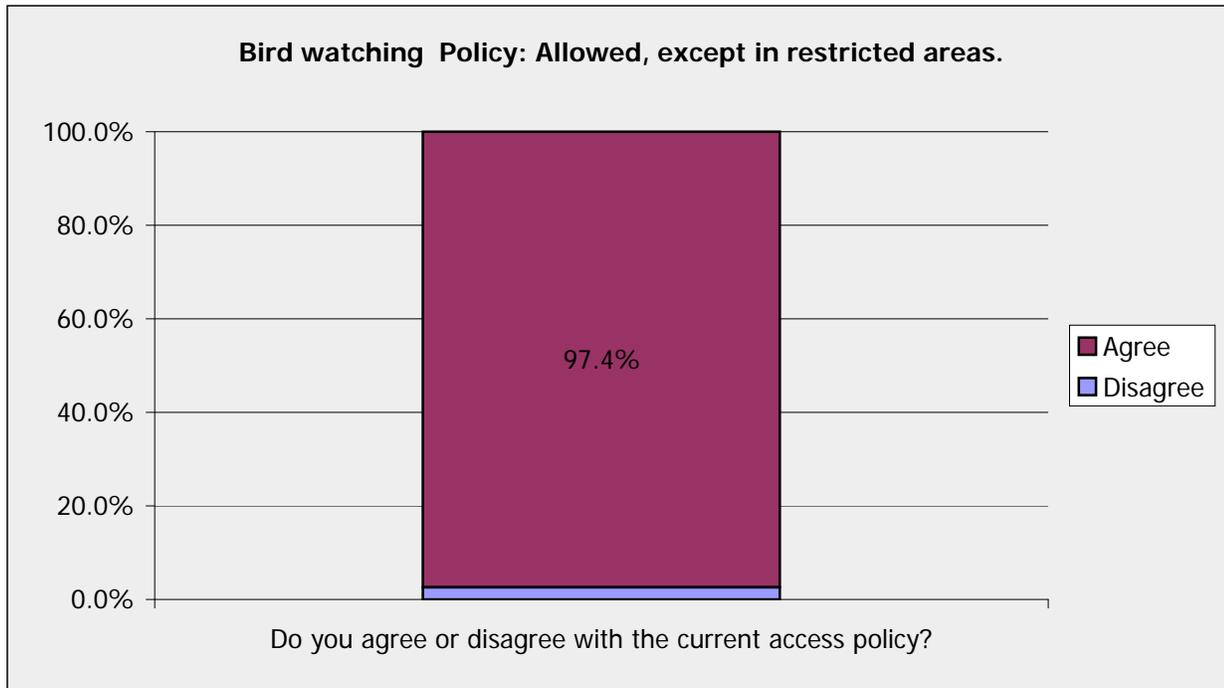
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	97.4%	189	2.6%	5	194
	<i>answered question</i>				194
	<i>skipped question</i>				8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Bird watching Policy: Allowed, except in restricted areas.

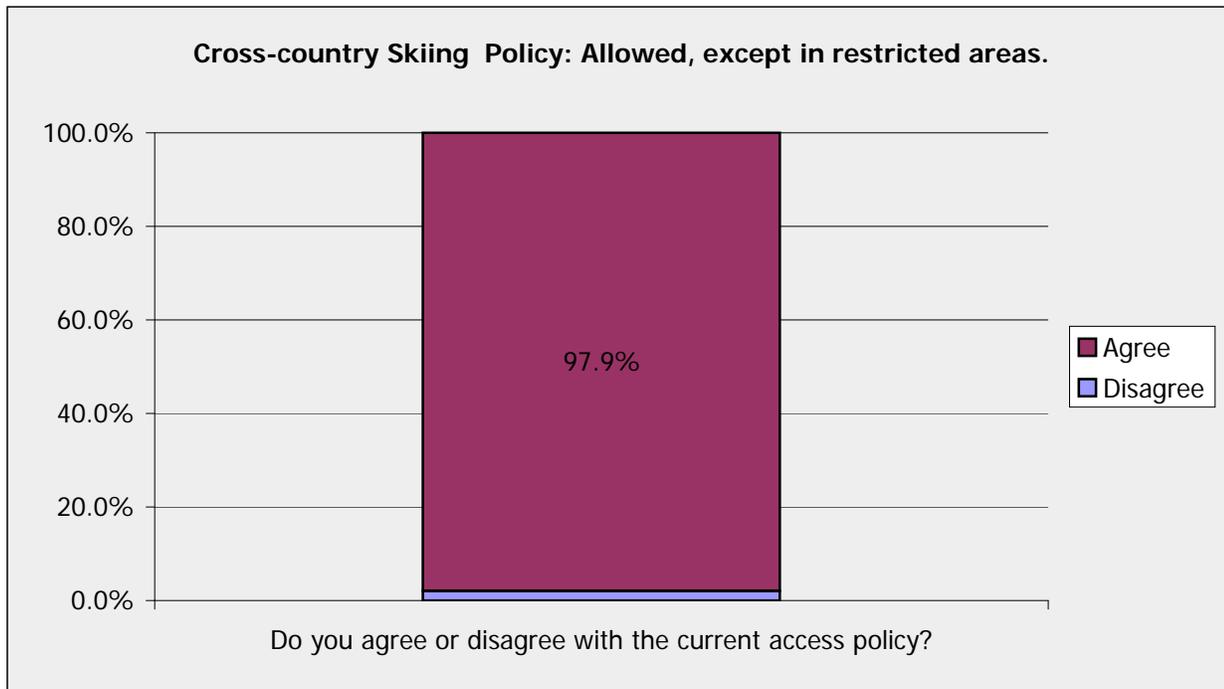
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	97.4%	189	2.6%	5	194
<i>answered question</i>					194
<i>skipped question</i>					8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Cross-country Skiing Policy: Allowed, except in restricted areas.

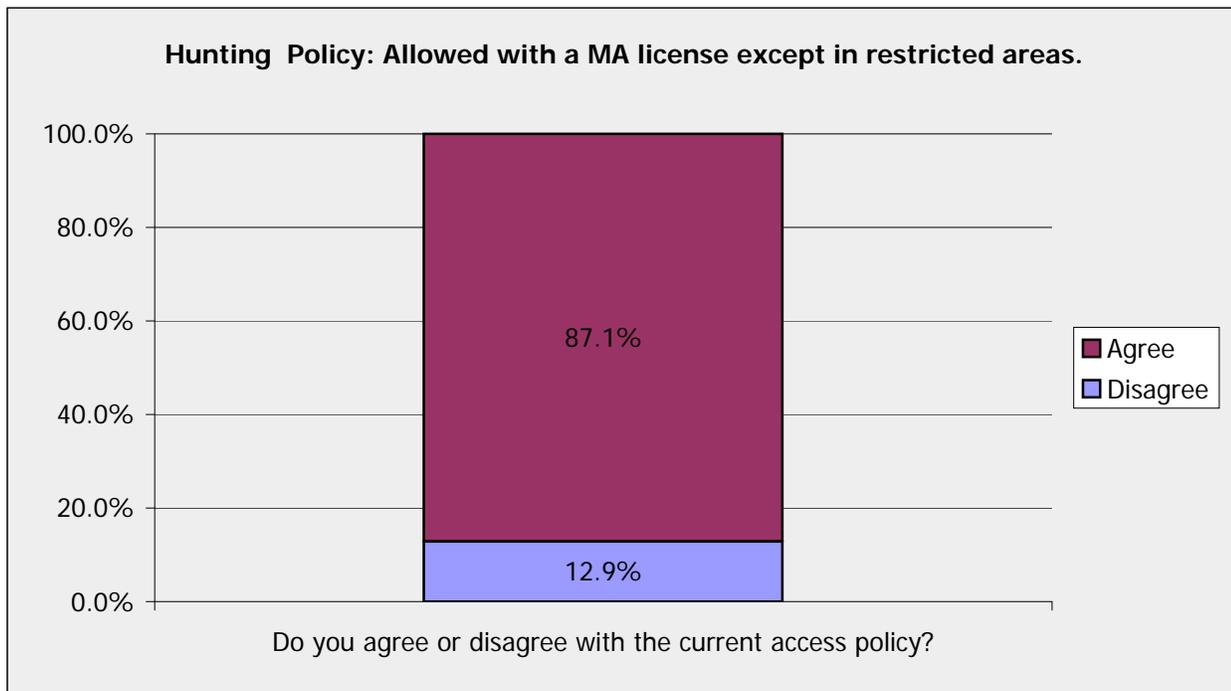
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	97.9%	189	2.1%	4	193
<i>answered question</i>					193
<i>skipped question</i>					9



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Hunting Policy: Allowed with a MA license except in restricted areas.

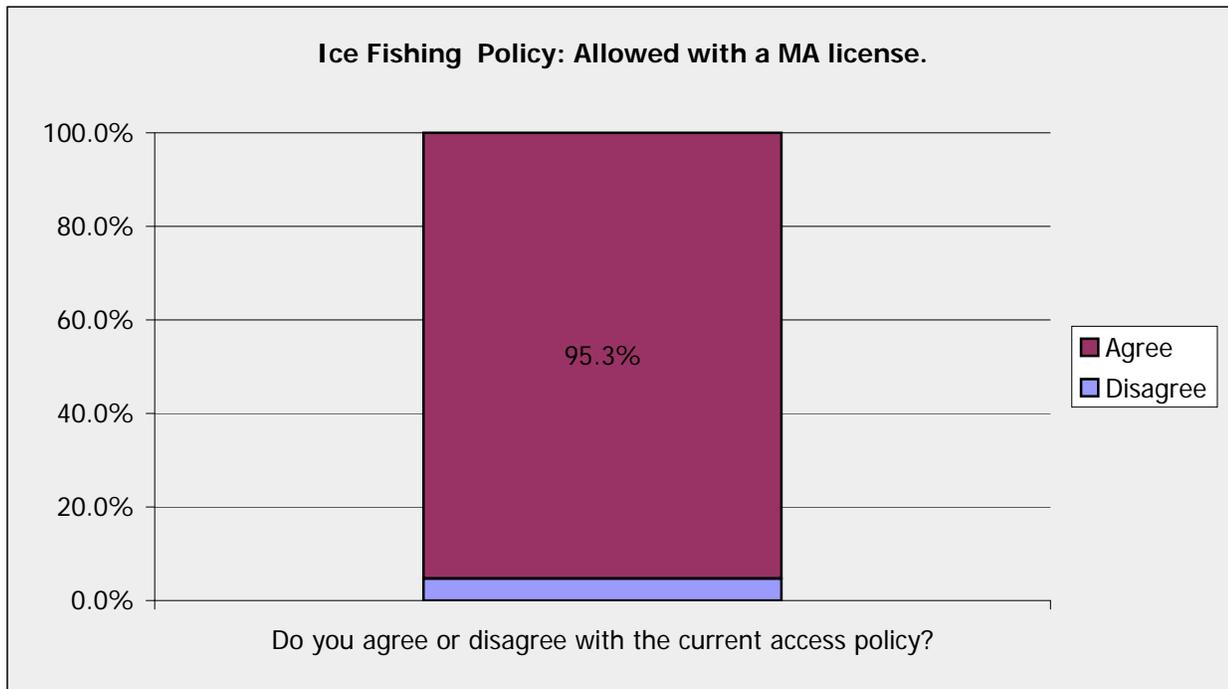
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	87.1%	169	12.9%	25	194
	<i>answered question</i>				194
	<i>skipped question</i>				8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Ice Fishing Policy: Allowed with a MA license.

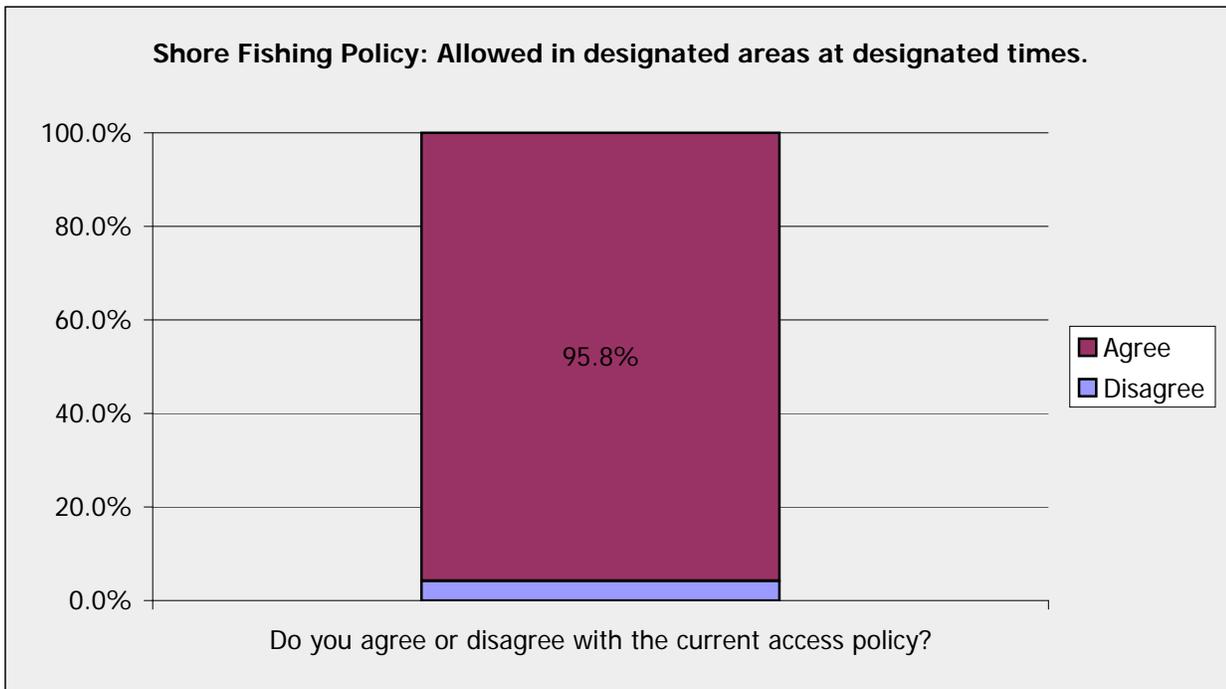
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	95.3%	184	4.7%	9	193
<i>answered question</i>					193
<i>skipped question</i>					9



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Shore Fishing Policy: Allowed in designated areas at designated times.

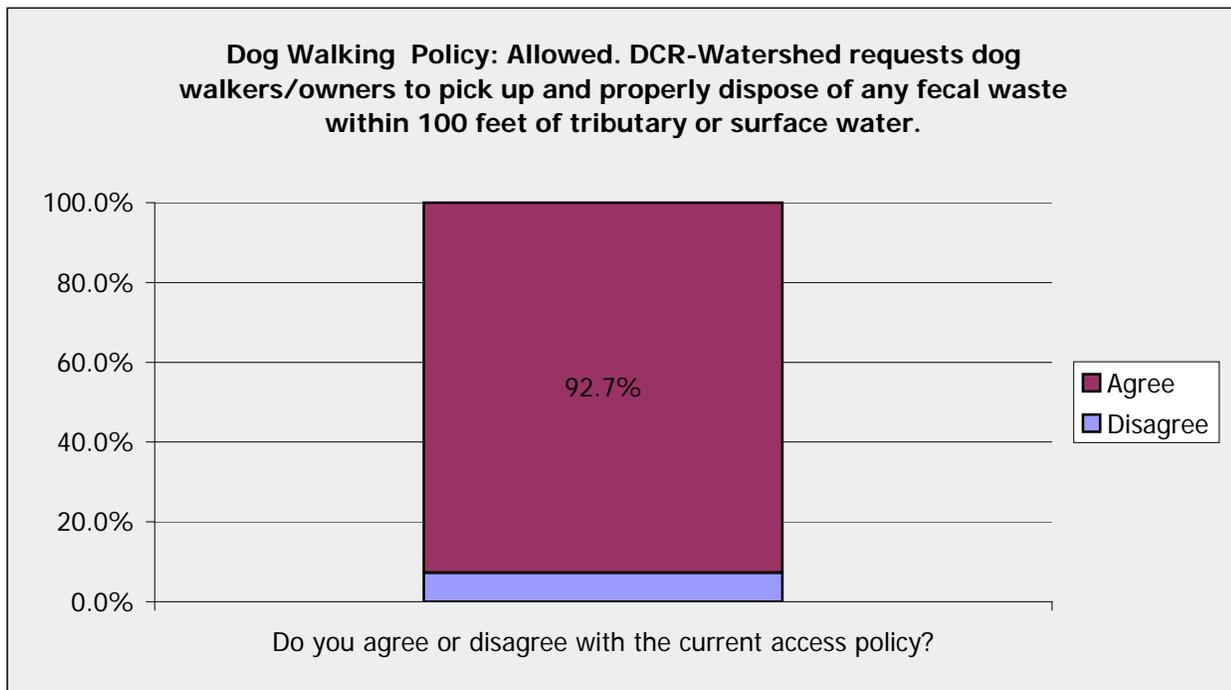
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	95.8%	183	4.2%	8	191
<i>answered question</i>					191
<i>skipped question</i>					11



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Dog Walking Policy: Allowed. DCR-Watershed requests dog walkers/owners to pick up and properly dispose of any fecal waste within 100 feet of tributary or surface water.

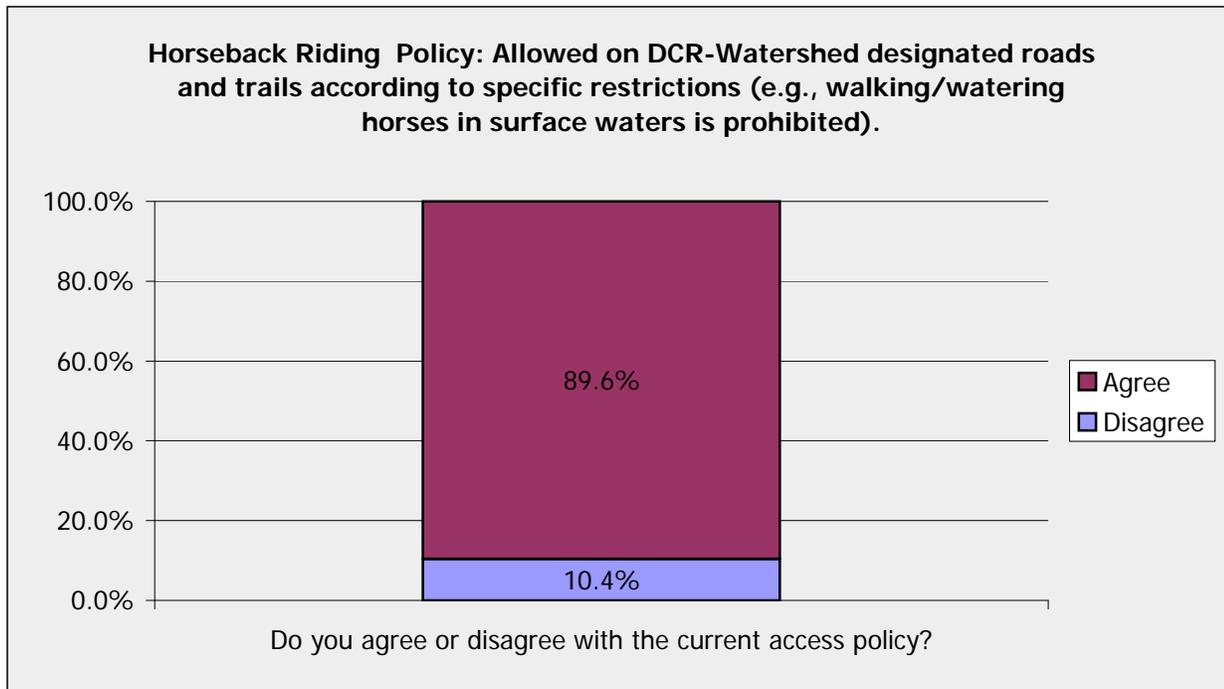
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	92.7%	179	7.3%	14	193
<i>answered question</i>					193
<i>skipped question</i>					9



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Horseback Riding Policy: Allowed on DCR-Watershed designated roads and trails according to specific restrictions (e.g., walking/watering horses in surface waters is prohibited).

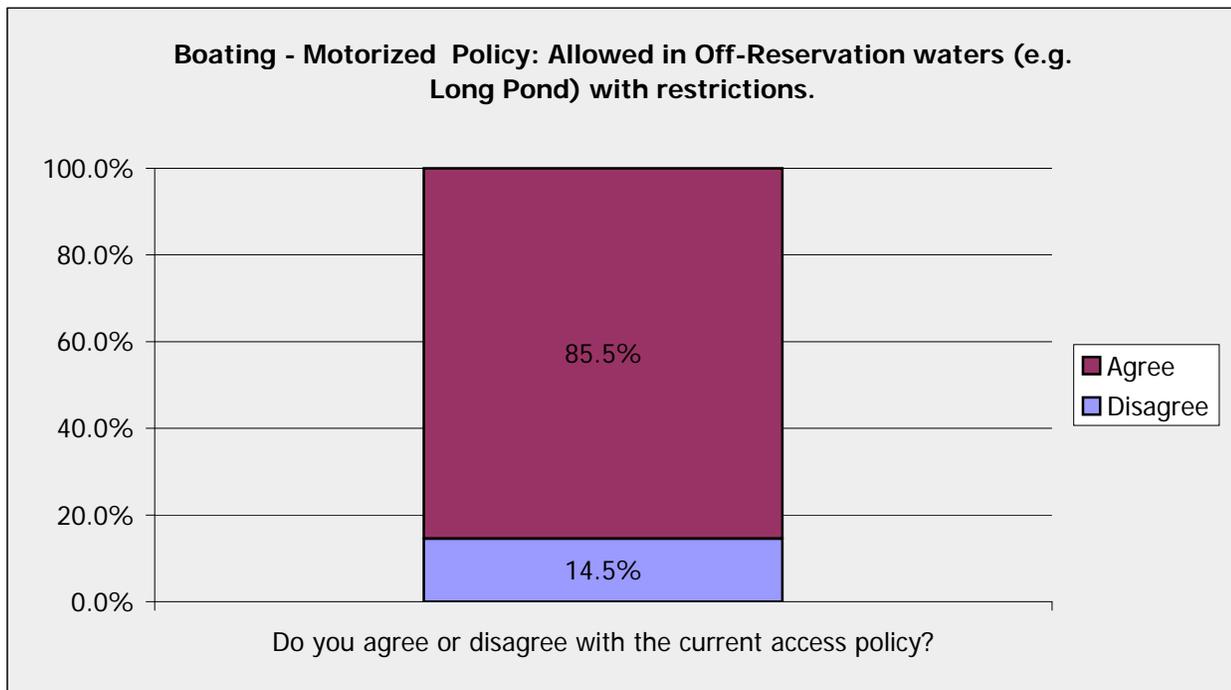
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	89.6%	173	10.4%	20	193
			<i>answered question</i>		193
			<i>skipped question</i>		9



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Boating - Motorized Policy: Allowed in Off-Reservation waters (e.g. Long Pond) with restrictions.

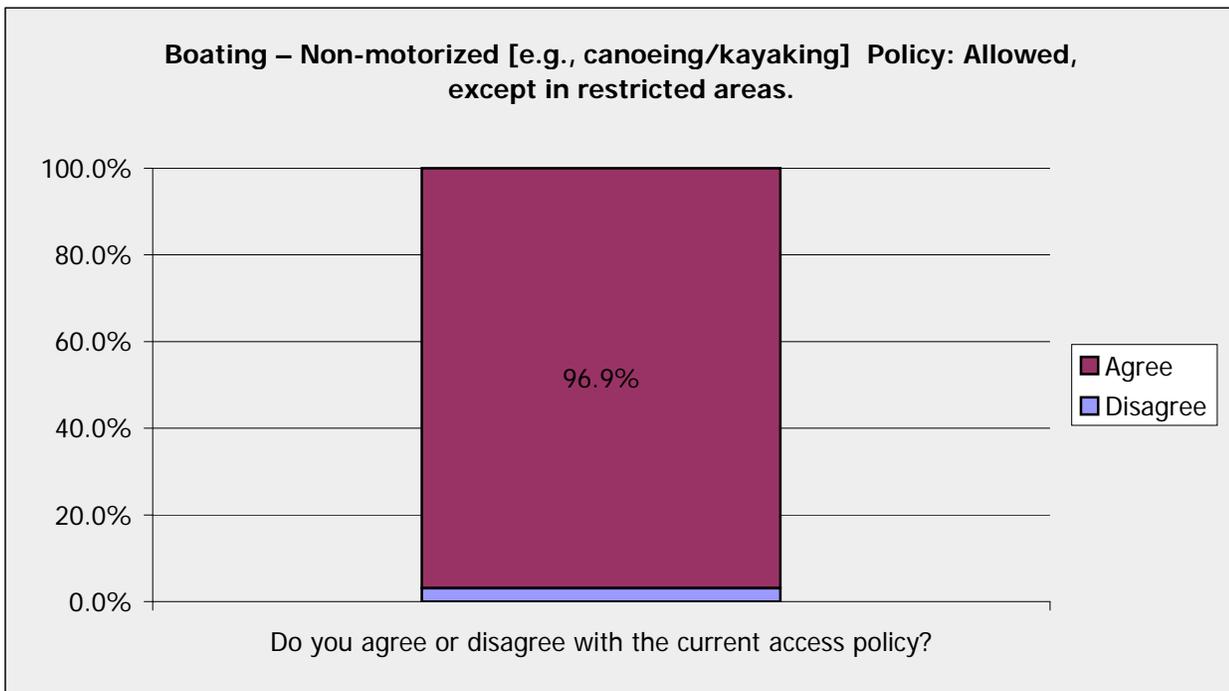
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	85.5%	165	14.5%	28	193
	<i>answered question</i>				193
	<i>skipped question</i>				9



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Boating – Non-motorized [e.g., canoeing/kayaking] Policy: Allowed, except in restricted areas.

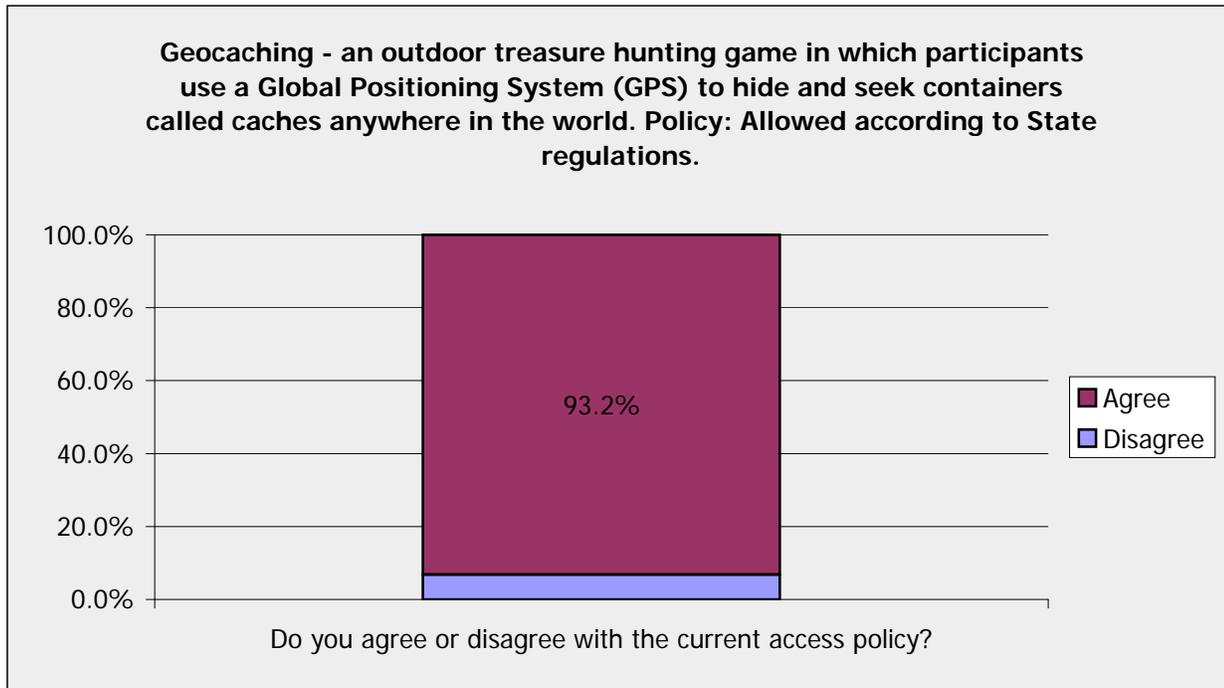
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	96.9%	189	3.1%	6	195
	<i>answered question</i>				195
	<i>skipped question</i>				7



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Geocaching - an outdoor treasure hunting game in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to hide and seek containers called caches anywhere in the world. Policy: Allowed

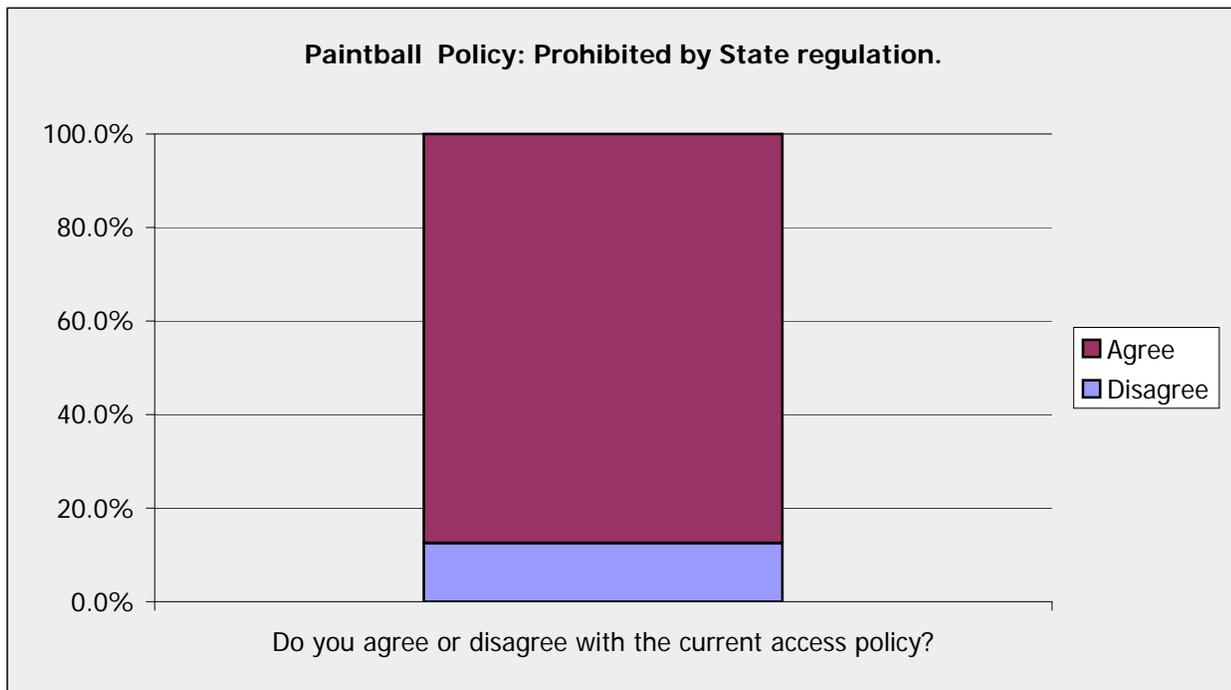
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	93.2%	177	6.8%	13	190
	<i>answered question</i>				190
	<i>skipped question</i>				12



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Paintball Policy: Prohibited by State regulation.

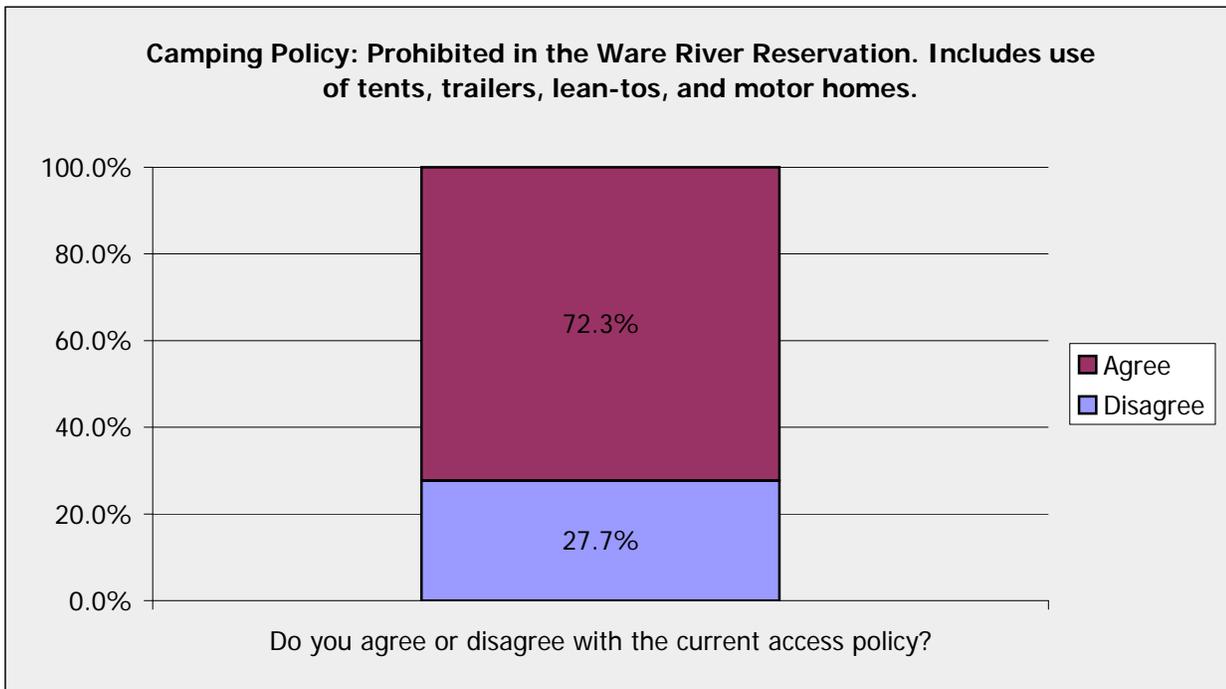
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	87.5%	168	12.5%	24	192
<i>answered question</i>					192
<i>skipped question</i>					10



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Camping Policy: Prohibited in the Ware River Reservation. Includes use of tents, trailers, lean-tos, and motor homes.

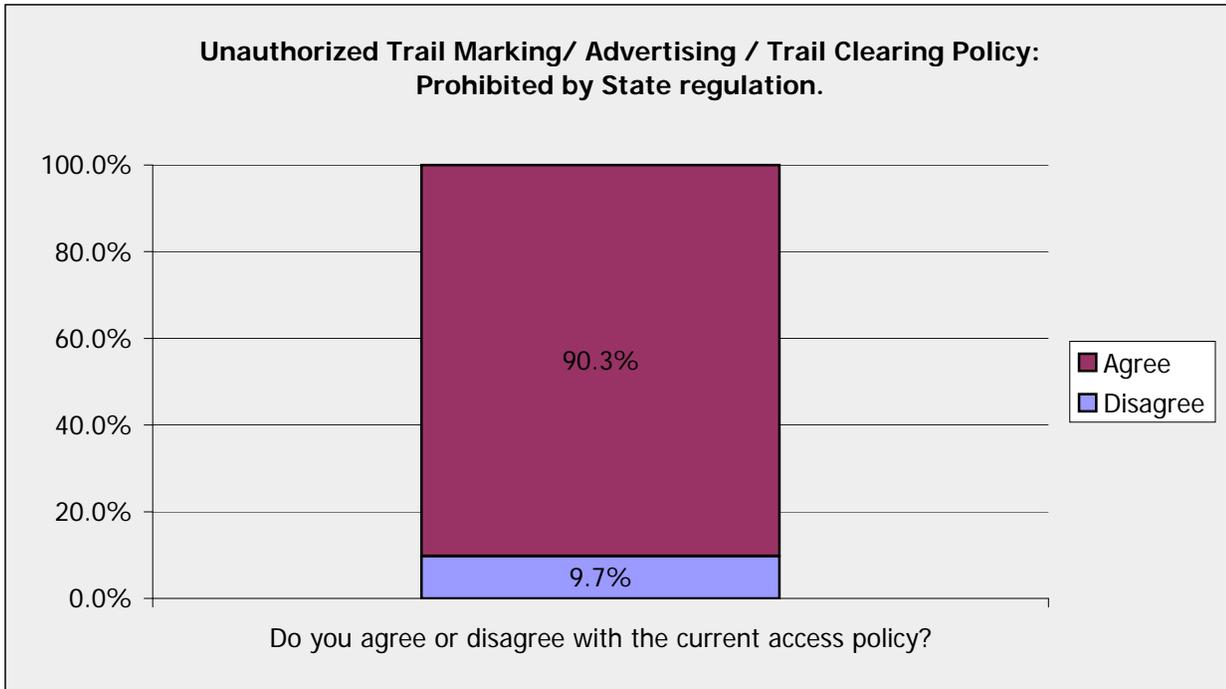
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	72.3%	141	27.7%	54	195
	<i>answered question</i>				195
	<i>skipped question</i>				7



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Unauthorized Trail Marking/ Advertising / Trail Clearing Policy: Prohibited by State regulation.

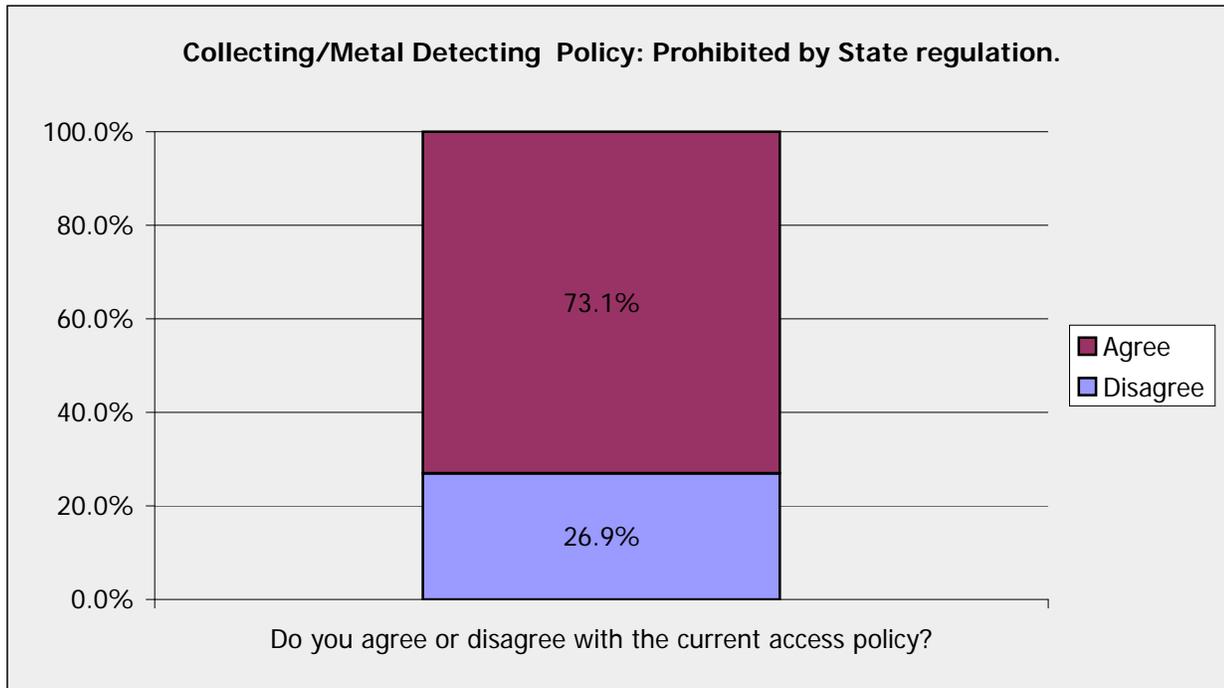
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	90.3%	176	9.7%	19	195
<i>answered question</i>					195
<i>skipped question</i>					7



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Collecting/Metal Detecting Policy: Prohibited by State regulation.

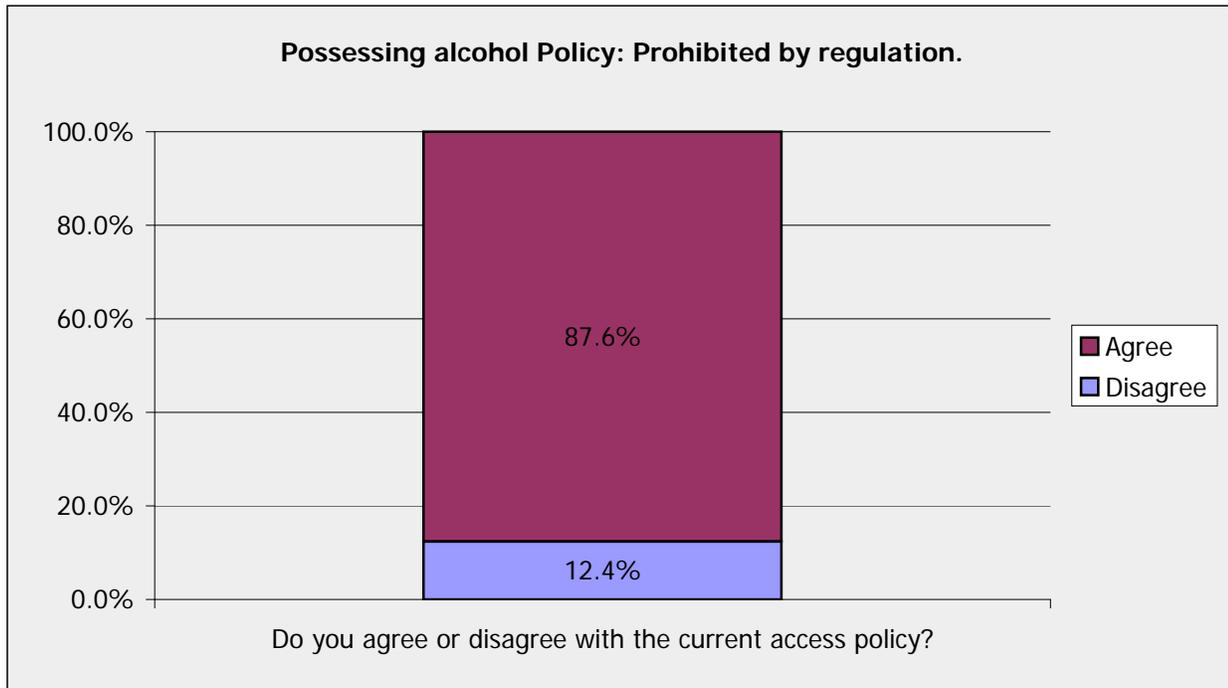
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	73.1%	141	26.9%	52	193
<i>answered question</i>					193
<i>skipped question</i>					9



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Possessing alcohol Policy: Prohibited by regulation.

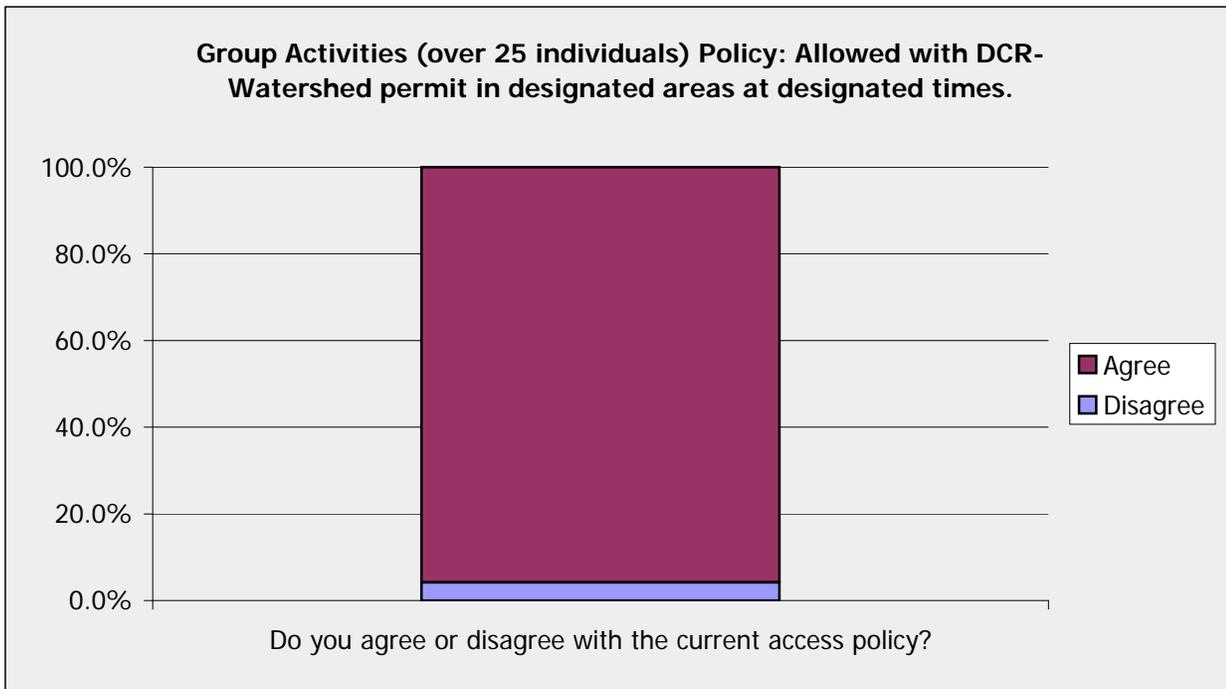
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	87.6%	170	12.4%	24	194
<i>answered question</i>					194
<i>skipped question</i>					8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Group Activities (over 25 individuals) Policy: Allowed with DCR-Watershed permit in designated areas at designated times.

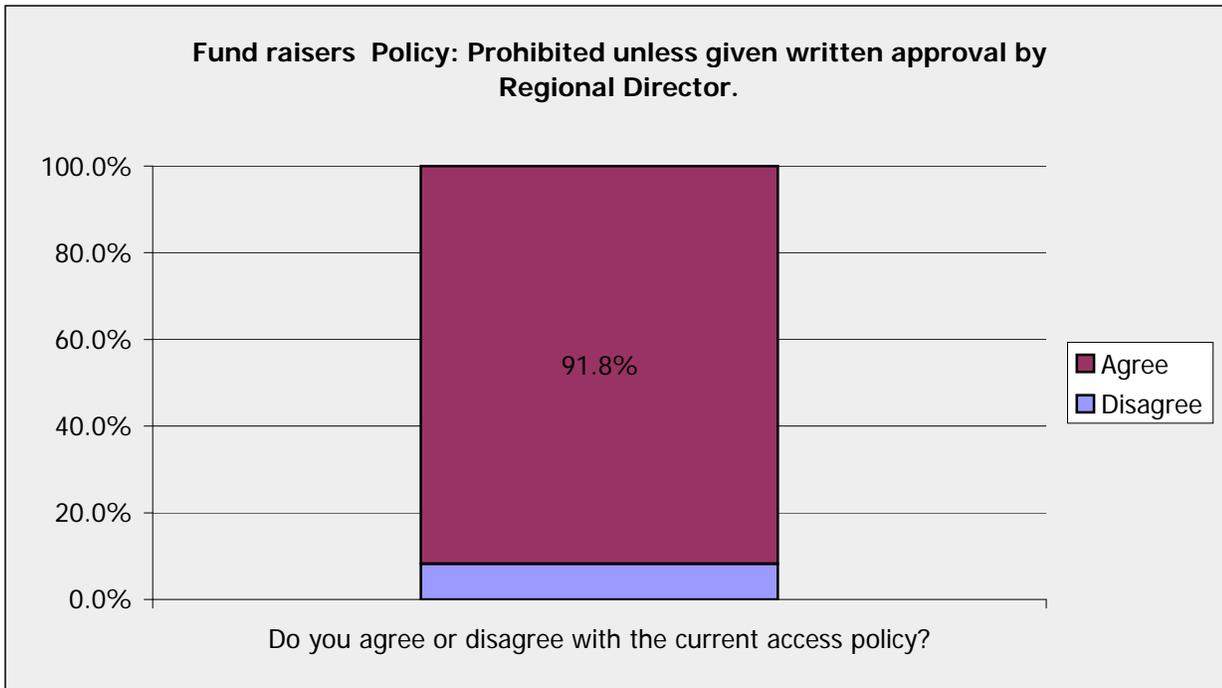
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	95.8%	184	4.2%	8	192
	<i>answered question</i>				192
	<i>skipped question</i>				10



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Fund raisers Policy: Prohibited unless given written approval by Regional Director.

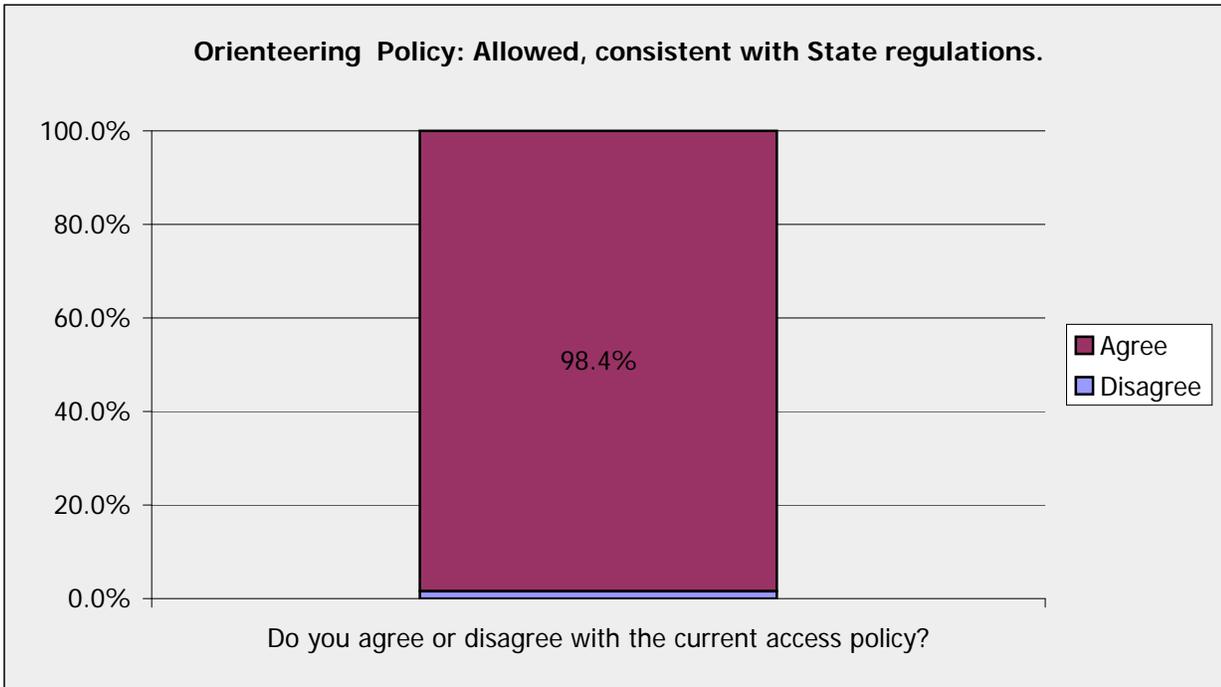
Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	91.8%	178	8.2%	16	194
<i>answered question</i>					194
<i>skipped question</i>					8



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Orienteering Policy: Allowed, consistent with State regulations.

Answer Options	Agree		Disagree		Response Count
Do you agree or disagree	98.4%	187	1.6%	3	190
<i>answered question</i>					190
<i>skipped question</i>					12



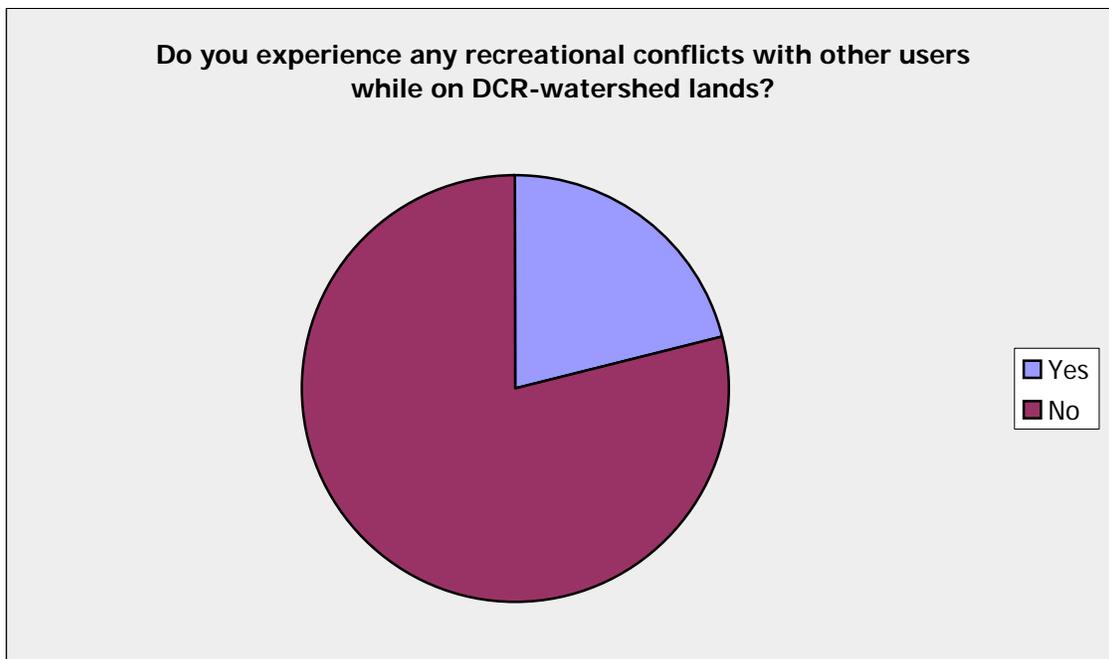
Public Access and Recreation Survey

Do you experience any recreational conflicts with other users while on DCR-watershed lands?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	21.2%	41
No	78.8%	152
If yes, please describe		43
<i>answered question</i>		193
<i>skipped question</i>		9

If yes, please describe
illegal ATV users cause damage to soils, vegetation, noise disturbs people & wildlife
hunter harrassment
ATV's and dirt bikes tearing up the place
Snowmobilers, hunters create a danger to hikers or drivers in that area.
atv moto bike
yes- hunters, some leave animal parts in woods
people who are using the lands without full knowledge of what is allowed and what isn't
deer population is too low- over hunted
non hunter orange wearing anti hunters in designated hunting areas
Motorized recreation vehicles, snowmobiles, dirt bikes
the horses tear up the trails, the ATVs are using trails that they are not designated to use
non permit-holding boats on long pond
cant hunt in winter because gates are locked in barre falls
Dogs are disrupting to wildlife and to people who are out to find quiet and calm.
Long Pond: water-ski boats come to close to fishing boats
people with horses are sometimes not tolerant of hunters
Hiking during hunting season
Creepy people following us when we ride our bikes
Dog walking should be given wider access
kayakers should stay on the perimeter of Long Pond and off the main ramp
some...guy broke my...window
Snowmobiles and ATVs make too much noise, are a hazard, and destroy trails
have encountered ATV users
whose use is more important
cross country skiers can be very rude and sometimes try to obstruct trails used by snowmobiles by standing in middle of the trail
I see ATV's and sometimes 4x4's trying to use snowmobile trails in the winter.
most Horse rides are courteous, But when a dog poops you need to pick it up, So should horses.
I think most who use the trail respect each other for the most part.

Occasionally far too crowded for the habitat and illegal ATVS can be a real problem.
Hunters and birdwatching do not usually go together
hunting is not compatible with other uses and other uses are restricted as a result
X country skiing and snowmobiling
I consider motorized off-road recreation such as snowmobiling and powerboating a terrible disturbance.
Inconsiderate Winter horseback riders on groomed snowmobile trails
atvs on trails in winter.
people with horses that think they own the place
frequently observe ATV & dirt bike riders when it is prohibited!!! Noisy & rude!!
horses cause damage
dog walkers taking up entire width of snowmobile trail
cross country skiers and dog walking on rail trails during snowmobile season
snowmobiling
Too much restriction on snowmachines with quiet areas
Horseback riders do not like motor bikes!



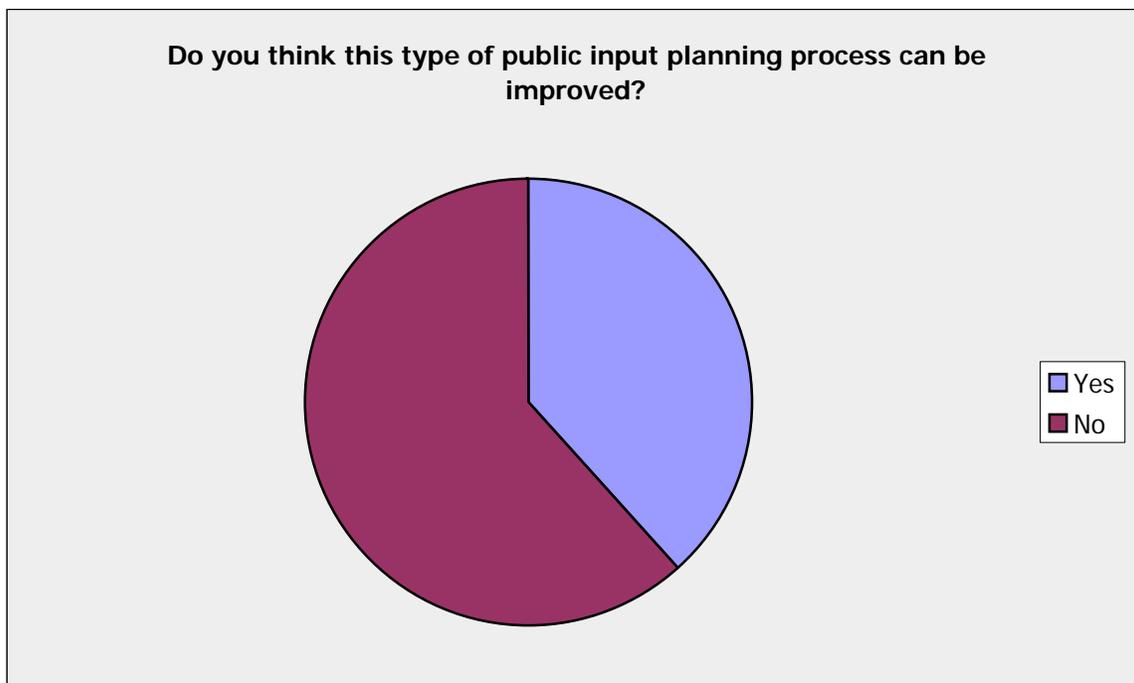
Public Access and Recreation Survey

Do you think this type of public input planning process can be improved?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	38.3%	71
No	61.7%	107
If yes, how?		53
<i>answered question</i>		178
<i>skipped question</i>		24

If yes, how?
question on Green Certification is too limited.
regional & Town meetings
Not sure how.
more communication outlets- live here almost 30+ years this is the first communication I've had!
this survey is too long and pointless
anything can be improved- don't have any further suggestions at this time
more signs and patrolling
people on the ground asking questions
Making public more aware of surveys such as this.
survey answer choices are too broad, for instance there is a lot room between "never" and "often"
Keep making it more accessible
?
more opportunities for input
More public outreach and education.
talk to more sportsman
comment area for each question
If action is taken, instead of just gathering info.
Interns. Look at this from many ways!
Evidence of intent to provide enforcement is critical
When we disagree- offer a way to express specifics
catch that guy
Posting contact/reporting info. on or near trails. Greater publicity.
make the online surveys easier to reach
don't know the alternatives
If you are going to try and take into consideration every person's input, you need to keep those groups in the loop of information. Continually the horse groups find that our concerns are discarded and not discussed at the public mtgs. Those of us that appreciate the use of these areas are as concerned as you are about the health of the watershed and abide by the rules set forth. We appreciate your taking this into account.
Give more weight to input from local residents
Yes, more communications between the groups to find ways that we can all utilize the land for our enjoyment as well as maintain it for functional use.
by listening to the public
Continue to ask for feedback and suggestions

Public forums
Let more people know what is going on
keep getting input!
more advertising on surveys
post public service announcements on TV so more people can provide input
work with the people who want to volunteer time in the park (snowmobile clubs)
More media attention.
Supplement with local public forums
there are places where comments should be requested
questions more specific to activities and users
send this survey to all users of DCR lands
you could enlighten those who take the survey to rules, regulations, and your plans before taking this survey
easier access for volunteer organizations to help
Organized meeting with local clubs that may use these areas
With input from all groups or organizations that use the land
More open access to long pond for boats, less restrictions on grooming snowmobile trails.
Do more outreach work to get individuals involved.
More advertising about these planning sessions and surveys
meetings, notices to raise awareness of the lands, their stewards and how they will remain open to the public
increased awareness through the state agencies promotions
Less red tape
The group that gives back to the area the most through volunteer efforts should have a greater say. Why isn't this recognized?
Open more areas.
allow for more choices-reporting-comments. Include modify/improve option in agree/disagree policy section.



Public Access and Recreation Survey

Do you have any comments or specific suggestions?

Answer Options	Response Count
	79
<i>answered question</i>	79
<i>skipped question</i>	120

Response Text
Expand public outreach regarding forestry and opportunities for public input. Consider expanding lands excluded from forestry for habitat reserve value.
Widely published rules and especially maps, bulletin boards kept updated with non-faded copies of maps
I think it is very backwards of DCR to not allow mountain biking on singletrack in the watershed areas. Bicycles don't pollute or defecate. Bicycles don't cause any more erosion that hikers. The current policy is very unenlightened.
Can not understand the prohibition of cycling on paths/trails where other users are permitted. This legacy restriction never made sense as a cyclist where other shore uses are allowed which have more likelihood of introducing foreign items into the water supply. In general back country cyclists are the epitome of leave no trace users.
Eliminate hunting and snowmobiling.
more access point for canoe kayaks better maintenance of bike paths or paving
why allow snowmobiling and not atv fourwheeling?
I love the rail trail. Is Greenway Seasonings published yearly? It should be :)
The DCR Watershed is a wonderful resource that we enjoy year-round, on our own and with our family. We are grateful to have this beautiful area accessible to us and so close and so well maintained.
Pertaining to question 2.8: I use the land too often so during hunting months, I feel its not fair because I have nowhere to walk, bring my dog out. I think it is great you are doing this! FYI My brother is on the committee.
There should be more access and uses allowed. Pertaining to Q1.2- Privacy:whose?; building dams: ?. Q2.2, 2.4, 2.7, 2.11: Too restricted for access.
Maybe a few more portable outhouses in distant places
no hunting in watershed. deer hunting has hurt us, close watershed please.
Extending the Long Pond boating permit time from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Which would be the time in the summer it starts to get dark. 6:00pm is about the time you get home from work during the week and can head out. The 6:00pm time is not user friendly during the week!!!
need to allow more forestry and tree cutting.
Keep Women's Federation open year round for hunting, camping, fishing
couldn't access actual survey on listed website.
Arrest the violators of snowmobiles and dirt bikes

Work more closely with organized user groups, i.e. NEMBA. Take advantage of volunteer efforts by such groups instead of simply banning a given activity such as mountain biking. Mountain biking has far less environmental impact than other activities that are allowed in the watershed. Mountain bikes are allowed in many other major watersheds across the country due to logical thought and open mindedness. By prohibiting this activity in particular you are missing out on the energy of a highly motivated user group. When one objectively compares mountain biking to other activities such as horse back riding or boating it becomes obvious that biking is far less harmful, if at all, to the watershed than these other approved activities. I would advise you to contact your colleagues at state forests that were heavily damaged due to the ice storm this year and ask them which user group put in the most volunteer time and effort in assisting them with cleaning up their respective lands.

There should be trails open for ORV use in non sensitive areas, similar to the snowmobile areas, obviously this should be done after mud season. There are no ORV areas in central MA right now. There also should be some camping allowed (primitive) in some areas. I don't see the problem of having a paintball area either, probably it should be an area to be leased where the state could make some \$\$ off the rental of the area, and also closer police what goes on there. Thank you for asking for my input.

Allow camping by permit for non-profit youth organizations, perhaps in exchange for a few hours of supervised work.

Dirt bikes should have a designated area where the resulting damage can be tolerated and contained

The bicycle restrictions seem inordinately prohibitive. Mountain bikers as a community are a very conscientious group; sensitive to trail trail impact and other issues. It's difficult for me to assume what dcr's concerns were when they set such a restrictive policy about cycling.

I think that often times the impacts of horses versus mountain bikes are greatly misunderstood. On trails that we often ride we have done fundraising rides where 50 cyclists will ride a certain trail and leave virtually no noticeable impacts. When the same trail is used by even 1 horse there are hoof holes and droppings that will stay there all year. It is very frustrating to see trails open to horses, which cause erosion and leave droppings, while those same trails are closed to bicycles. I also don't agree with prohibiting the cleaning of trails. After the ice storm this past winter, many trails were left impassable. Why can't the trail users take the initiative and clean up the debris, rather than put all the pressure on the DCR employees?

The Ware river runs below and beside the barre damp!! brown foam in water! yuk! yuk! (glad I have a well)

Q13- want night hours-till 9pm in summer

adjust Long Pond permit from "10am to 6pm" to "9am to dark". Those who work weekdays cannot legally use pond during weekdays.

Should be able to clear brush to see the ponds near homes.

Boat fishing on Long Pond with no larger than 25 HP should be permitted with speed restrictions etc. and not a permit.

I very seldom use Long Pond with my larger 115HP boat. Occasionally with grand kids to pull a tube. Move the boat registration process to Rutland, closer to the user.

From my experience and people I know, many hardly use the pond. During the week, there are only a few boats. Why not register use of fishing boats over 25HP for mon-fri or mon-thur when usage is low? I fish with a good friend who has a 60HP fishing boat, and can't get out to register because he starts work at 7am.

<p>150 times</p> <p>I live near Long Pond and have used it recreationally since 1955. I use it frequently now- both Long Pond and Rutland State Park. Although I agree with the policies in general, here are my specific disagreements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. boating has decreased drastically in the past 10 years. Some people who use it don't have permits, so the whole permit system system for restricting motors over 25HP seems unnecessary, and requires extra man hours to enforce them. 2. The month of May should be included in the boating season- we wait allw inter to use our boats! Also, the 6pm time to close in the summer is too early for many working folks who like to relax after working all day
<p>I feel that the Ware River Watershed is well managed. One major concern, however, is invasive species: I would like to see land managers able to use safe and appropriate herbicides to address this issue. Same for Quabbin. I am also very happy to see some of the recent forestry projects that are benefiting wildlife: I feel that this is an important role for Watershed lands.</p>
<p>Q3 Central Mass does not have any areas to ride ATV's Q4, 5, 7 Should wear blaze orange during hunting season Q6 should pay fee yearly as sportsmen do All accessible waters should have visible signage at all intersecting roads etc.</p>
<p>Q10. Need more open areas Q13. Need to improve permit process</p>
<p>By having a payed permit system, on designated trails, off road vehicle recreation could create jobs and a great source of income for DCR.</p>
<p>Restricting activities is a poor excuse for management. The public should have more access to trails for recreational mountain biking. Mountain bikers have been excellent at volunteering to help improve trail systems in many state parks. Leominster is one good example. They surley could help build and maintain (manage) trails around the Quabbin reserivior. Please consider loosening the bicycling restrictions on the single track trails around the Quabbin.</p>
<p>I would like to see unrestricted dog walking and horseback riding on DCR land. Prefer NO restrictions and NO permits for motorized boating</p>
<p>Q15. too many historic places</p>
<p>If you're concerned about dog fecal matter, consider what hunters do in the woods ! I use the watershed land almost everyday, not just 100(100 was the max. amount of times allowed). Thank you for caring. As an abutter, I would like to help in some way. Perhaps you could send out contact info to all abutters of the watershed.</p>
<p>Stop letting the developers in Rutland get away with "breaking the environmental protection laws!" Without enforcement this is all meaningless! I'd like to be a citizen advisor. Limit boats to under 25HP and enforce it!</p>
<p>Further restrict hunting and motorized equipment/trail use- Increase access for hiking, dog walking, XC skiing, canoeing, and kayaking.</p>
<p>please someone catch that guy</p>
<p>Is there a way to increase enforcement of the restrictions on operation of 4-wheelers and/or snowmobiles on watershed land after dark?</p>
<p>Horse back riding does not pose a threat to the environment or water quality. We should be included with all other local access plans</p>
<p>I want to thank everyone that is involved in preserving and caring for this wonderful resource.</p>

My land borders the watershed land...we have horses and have always used the land for trail riding. I would be nice to have the land for use with horseback riding. They cause no damage to the land and are respectful in their use.
please continue to allow horses to use the trails - the roads in Hubbardston aren't wide enough or safe enough!
Continue to work with the public for feedback and comments. Ask for ideas to ways to make the watershed area utilized but kept clean and up to date.
No further restrictions on trail use. There are currently too many.
The trails in RSP become terribly bumpy in winter. Please make it easy for Coldbrook Snowmobile Club to groom trails at RSP. It benefits everyone to have groomed trails.
I have snowmobiled there for the past 30 years and have respected this area as well as other people.
I enjoy the winter snowmobiling with my family. It's a nice way to travel the trails through the different towns and enjoy the outdoors.
The DCR should allow volunteer user groups a little more leniency on their policies towards volunteering. Many agency employees seem to forget that the people helping are volunteers and not paid staff. If there wasn't so much red tape to helping within the park systems more volunteer work would get done. I am of course talking about established organizations within DCR such as the Coldbrook Snowmobile Club.
I love the trails that are open to the public, and I hope there will be many more years to come!
please post results / feedback
let it snow
The use of the property is multi- purpose and should make it as easy for the bike and rail trail people to do property improvements along with snowmobiling and other recreation groups that want to donate time and material to the property to make the enjoyment of all user groups more enjoyable.
It has been very difficult trying to work with the current management within the park. I belong to coldbrook snowmobile club and would like to volunteer some time to trail improvement/grooming which has proven to be an asset to other parks who have experienced budget restraints within the state. We are a volunteer group with little money and can not afford to pay time and a half for a ranger to ride with us well grooming trails! Have some trust in our organization I think you will see how sincere we are
Keep this land open for all to enjoy.
Trails would be more user friendly, if they were marked.
Wanted to comment on how much we enjoy the area snowmobiling
This area is an IBA and an important resource for breeding birds, mammals, and plants
Keep up the good work! Ware River Watershed is a treasured resource.
I would like to see various user groups working together to develop more trails to increase access and improve the trail network while maintaining the integrity of the watershed
Allow the proper marking of trails within the DCR lands to avoid X country skiing and snowmobiles ending up on the same trail
do not stop logging on state land. you will put a lot of us out of work.
Snowmobiling has nearly a zero impact on the environment. Please keep this area available for us to ride on and enjoy the forest. Thank you.
Keep up the good work. Have speed limits instead of boat motor size restrictions.
If skiers and hikers want to use club maintained trails for skiing hiking etc, then we should be able to groom and ride snowmobiles on the rail trails.

I love to use these resources they provide hours of enjoyment for myself and my family, especially in the winter where we would have to travel out of state to go snowmobiling instead we can enjoy it right in our own "backyard". Thank you keep up the good work.

I would like to see land opened to dog training. There are fields all over the state that stand idle except for two-three hayings a year. The light foot print of dogs will do no harm to the land. Many of these fields are a great distance away from tributaries and surface water. Thank you.

Make registration for long pond at the boat launch or state building next door not at quabbin office. Allow snowmobile clubs to groom without rangers- this is a waste of tax dollars and we police the park for everyone. Work with your neighbors it was their land once.

People need to get involved at community level. It is in their best interest to help preserve these lands for future sustainability. I hope that more people are getting back to family outdoor activities, those of which are harmless to the earth/water/wildlife. They need to realize the value these vital properties possess. I would think community outreach programs and being active at town meetings would be helpful.

these lands need to stay open for public use.

DCR should work easier with established organizations such as the Coldbrook Snowmobile Club realizing that such organizations donate thousands of hours each year to the upkeep and appearance of the state system. Not only time but donating their own funds for DCR benefit. DCR should allow a little more freedom to such organizations and utilize their benefits without all of the extra stuff required.

I think and have witnessed the impact that snowmobilers have had on the trails their volunteer help with the trail maintenance has made it better for all users.

If you gauged witch group of DCR land users have had the most positive impact on the trail systems threw out the area meaning trail clearing, gate installation, and signage. You will see for yourself that the snowmobilers are at the top. We have learned long ago that you have to give back to these recreation areas and not just keep taking. More groups need to learn this!

Do not ban snowmobiling. The club does wonders for the dcr with trail clearing. We are a big asset to the area for all forms of recreation, summer or winter. We have non snowmobile members because they see the good we do in the are. (Chris Ferragamo Coldbrook Snowmobile club)

i have helped clear the trails and would like to continue to help make them better for everyone.

I spend many voluntary hours working on improving and maintaining trails.

My understanding is that the snowmobile clubs offer to maintain the trails but they're required to have Possibly open some trails in designated areas for ATV riding.

SPR Survey Comments

Question 53. Do you experience any recreational conflicts with other users while on DCR-watershed lands?

Hunting

- Hunter harassment
- Yes- hunters, some leave animal parts in woods
- Deer population is too low- over hunted
- Non hunter orange wearing anti hunters in designated hunting areas
- People with horses are sometimes not tolerant of hunters
- Hiking during hunting season
- Can't hunt in winter because gates are locked in Barre falls
- Snowmobilers, hunters create a danger to hikers or drivers in that area
- Hunters and birdwatching do not usually go together
- hunting is not compatible with other uses and other uses are restricted as a result

ORV

- Illegal ATV users cause damage to soils, vegetation, and noise disturbs people & wildlife
- ATV's and dirt bikes tearing up the place
- Atv moto bike
- The horses tear up the trails, the ATVs are using trails that they are not designated to use
- Motorized recreation vehicles, snowmobiles, dirt bikes
- have encountered ATV users
- I see ATV's and sometimes 4x4's trying to use snowmobile trails in the winter.
- Occasionally far too crowded for the habitat and illegal ATVS can be a real problem.
- atvs on trails in winter.
- frequently observe ATV & dirt bike riders when it is prohibited!!! Noisy & rude!!

Snowmobiling

- Snowmobiles and ATVs make too much noise, are a hazard, and destroy trails
- cross country skiers can be very rude and sometimes try to obstruct trails used by snowmobiles by standing in middle of the trail
- X country skiing and snowmobiling
- I consider motorized off-road recreation such as snowmobiling and powerboating a terrible disturbance
- Inconsiderate Winter horseback riders on groomed snowmobile trails
- dog walkers taking up entire width of snowmobile trail
- cross country skiers and dog walking on rail trails during snowmobile season
- snowmobiling
- Too much restriction on snowmachines with quiet areas

Other

- Long Pond: water-ski boats come too close to fishing boats
- People who are using the lands without full knowledge of what is allowed and what isn't
- Non permit-holding boats on long pond

- Dogs are disrupting to wildlife and to people who are out to find quiet and calm
- Dog walking should be given wider access
- Creepy people following us when we ride our bikes
- Kayakers should stay on the perimeter of Long Pond and off the main ramp
- Some... guy broke my ...window
- whose use is more important
- most horse rides are courteous, But when a dog poops you need to pick it up, So should horses.
- I think most who use the trail respect each other for the most part.
- people with horses that think they own the place
- horses cause damage
- Horseback riders do not like motor bikes!

Question 54. Do you think this type of public input planning process can be improved?

On-Site

- Posting contact/reporting information on or near trails. Greater publicity.
- More signs and patrolling.
- People on the ground asking questions.
- Talk to more sportsman.
- If action is taken, instead of just gathering info.
- Evidence of intent to provide enforcement is critical.
- Catch that... guy.
- More open access to long pond for boats, less restrictions on grooming snowmobile trails.
- Open more areas.

Outreach

- Keep making it more accessible.
- More opportunities for input.
- More public outreach and education.
- Regional & Town meetings.
- More communication outlets- live here almost 30+ years this is the first communication I've had!
- Making public more aware of surveys such as this.
- Not sure how.
- Anything can be improved- don't have any further suggestions at this time.
- If you are going to try and take into consideration every person's input, you need to keep those groups in the loop of information. Continually the horse groups find that our concerns are discarded and not discussed at the public mtgs. Those of us that appreciate the use of these areas are as concerned as you are about the health of the watershed and abide by the rules set forth. We appreciate your taking this into account.
- Yes, more communications between the groups to find ways that we can all utilize the land for our enjoyment as well as maintain it for functional use.
- by listening to the public
- Continue to ask for feedback and suggestions
- Public forums

- Let more people know what is going on
- keep getting input!
- more advertising on surveys
- post public service announcements on TV so more people can provide input
- work with the people who want to volunteer time in the park (snowmobile clubs)
- More media attention.
- Supplement with local public forums
- send this survey to all users of DCR lands
- easier access for volunteer organizations to help
- Organized meeting with local clubs that may use these areas
- With input from all groups or organizations that use the land
- Do more outreach work to get individuals involved.
- More advertising about these planning sessions and surveys
- meetings, notices to raise awareness of the lands, their stewards and how they will remain open to the public
- increased awareness through the state agencies promotions
- Less red tape
- The group that gives back to the area the most through volunteer efforts should have a greater say. Why isn't this recognized?

Survey

- Question on Green Certification is too limited.
- This survey is too long and pointless.
- Survey answer choices are too broad, for instance there is a lot room between "never" and "often."
- Comment area for each question.
- When we disagree- offer a way to enter specifics.
- Interns. Look at this from many ways!
- Couldn't access actual survey on listed website.
- make the online surveys easier to reach
- don't know the alternatives
- Give more weight to input from local residents
- there are places where comments should be requested
- questions more specific to activities and users
- you could enlighten those who take the survey to rules, regulations, and your plans before taking this survey
- allow for more choices-reporting-comments. Include modify/improve option in agree/disagree policy section.

Question 55. Additional comments and suggestions

Boating

- Extending the Long Pond boating permit time from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Which would be the time in the summer it starts to get dark. 6:00pm is about the time you get home from work during the week and can head out. The 6:00pm time is not user friendly during the week!!!

- Limit boats to under 25HP and enforce it!
- Could the DCR consider an earlier start time for Long Pond larger HP boating permits. Those of us who fish would appreciate fishing earlier than 10am. just a suggestion for consideration. Thank you.
- Q13- want night hours-till 9pm in summer
- Boat fishing on Long Pond with no larger than 25 HP should be permitted with speed restrictions etc. and not a permit.

I very seldom use Long Pond with my larger 115HP boat. Occasionally with grand kids to pull a tube.

Move the boat registration process to Rutland, closer to the user.

From my experience and people I know, many hardly use the pond. During the week, there are only a few boats. Why not register use of fishing boats over 25HP for mon-fri or mon-thur when usage is low? I fish with a good friend who has a 60HP fishing boat, and can't get out to register because he starts work at 7am.

- Adjust Long Pond permit from "10am to 6pm" to "9am to dark". Those who work weekdays cannot legally use pond during weekdays.
- I live near Long Pond and have used it recreationally since 1955. I use it frequently now- both Long Pond and Rutland State Park. Although I agree with the policies in general, here are my specific disagreements:
 1. Boating has decreased drastically in the past 10 years. Some people who use it don't have permits, so the whole permit system for restricting motors over 25HP seems unnecessary, and requires extra man hours to enforce them.
 2. The month of May should be included in the boating season- we wait all winter to use our boats! Also, the 6pm time to close in the summer is too early for many working folks who like to relax after working all day.
- Q13. Need to improve permit process
- Have speed limits instead of boat motor size restrictions.
- Make registration for long pond at the boat launch or state building next door not at Quabbin office.

Forestry

- Expand public outreach regarding forestry and opportunities for public input. Consider expanding lands excluded from forestry for habitat reserve value.
- Need to allow more forestry and tree cutting.
- I feel that the Ware River Watershed is well managed. One major concern, however, is invasive species: I would like to see land managers able to use safe and appropriate herbicides to address this issue. Same for Quabbin. I am also very happy to see some of the recent forestry projects that are benefiting wildlife: I feel that this is an important role for Watershed lands.
- Do not stop logging on state land. You will put a lot of us out of work.

Hunting

- Eliminate hunting and snowmobiling.
- No hunting in watershed. Deer hunting has hurt us, close watershed please.
- Pertaining to question 2.8: I use the land too often so during hunting months, I feel its not fair because I have nowhere to walk, bring my dog out. I think it is great you are doing this! FYI My brother is on the committee.

- Q4, 5, 7: Should wear blaze orange during hunting season.
- Q6: Should pay fee yearly as sportsmen do.
- If you're concerned about dog fecal matter, consider what hunters do in the woods. I use the watershed land almost everyday, not just 100 (100 was the max. amount of times allowed).

Horseback Riding

- Horse back riding does not pose a threat to the environment or water quality. We should be included with all other local access plans
- My land borders the watershed land...we have horses and have always used the land for trail riding. I would be nice to have the land for use with horseback riding. They cause no damage to the land and are respectful in their use.
- please continue to allow horses to use the trails - the roads in Hubbardston aren't wide enough or safe enough!

Increased signage, recreational access etc.

- Widely published rules and especially maps, bulletin boards kept updated with non-faded copies of maps.
- All accessible waters should have visible signage at all intersecting roads etc.
- More access point for canoe kayaks better maintenance of bike paths or paving.
- There should be more access and uses allowed. Pertaining to Q1.2- Privacy: whose?; building dams: ?. Q2.2, 2.4, 2.7, 2.11: Too restricted for access.
- Further restrict hunting and motorized equipment/trail use- Increase access for hiking, dog walking, XC skiing, canoeing and kayaking.
- Allow camping by permit for non-profit youth organizations, perhaps in exchange for a few hours of supervised work.
- Should be able to clear brush to see the ponds near homes.
- I would like to see unrestricted dog walking and horseback riding on DCR land. Prefer NO restrictions and NO permits for motorized boating.
- Maybe a few more portable outhouses in distant places.
- Q10. Need more open areas
- Q15. Too many historic places.
- No further restrictions on trail use. There are currently too many.
- Keep this land open for all to enjoy.
- Trails would be more user friendly, if they were marked.
- I would like to see various user groups working together to develop more trails to increase access and improve the trail network while maintaining the integrity of the watershed
- I would like to see land opened to dog training. There are fields all over the state that stand idle except for two-three hayings a year. The light foot print of dogs will do no harm to the land. Many of these fields are a great distance away from tributaries and surface water. Thank you.
- these lands need to stay open for public use.
- I have helped clear the trails and would like to continue to help make them better for everyone.
- I spend many voluntary hours working on improving and maintaining trails.

- Possibly open some trails in designated areas for ATV riding.
- The use of the property is multi- purpose and should make it as easy for the bike and rail trail people to do property improvements along with snowmobiling and other recreation groups that want to donate time and material to the property to make the enjoyment of all user groups more enjoyable.

Mountain Biking

- I think it is very backwards of DCR to not allow mountain biking on single track in the watershed areas. Bicycles don't pollute or defecate. Bicycles don't cause any more erosion than hikers. The current policy is very unenlightened.
- Can not understand the prohibition of cycling on paths/trails where other users are permitted. This legacy restriction never made sense as a cyclist where other shore users are allowed which have more likelihood of introducing foreign items into the water supply. In general back country cyclists are the epitome of leave no trace users.
- Work more closely with organized user groups, i.e. NEMBA. Take advantage of volunteer efforts by such groups instead of simply banning a given activity such as mountain biking. Mountain biking has far less environmental impact than other activities that are allowed in the watershed. Mountain bikes are allowed in many other major watersheds across the country due to logical thought and open mindedness. By prohibiting this activity in particular you are missing out on the energy of a highly motivated user group. When one objectively compares mountain biking to other activities such as horse back riding or boating it becomes obvious that biking is far less harmful, if at all, to the watershed than these other approved activities. I would advise you to contact your colleagues at state forests that were heavily damaged due to the ice storm this year and ask them which user group put in the most volunteer time and effort in assisting them with cleaning up their respective lands.
- The bicycle restrictions seem inordinately prohibitive. Mountain bikers as a community are a very conscientious group; sensitive to trail impact and other issues. It's difficult for me to assume what DCR's concerns were when they set such a restrictive policy about cycling.
- I think that often times the impacts of horses versus mountain bikes are greatly misunderstood. On trails that we often ride we have done fundraising rides where 50 cyclists will ride a certain trail and leave virtually no noticeable impacts. When the same trail is used by even 1 horse there are hoof holes and droppings that will stay there all year. It is very frustrating to see trails open to horses, which cause erosion and leave droppings, while those same trails are closed to bicycles. I also don't agree with prohibiting the cleaning of trails. After the ice storm this past winter, many trails were left impassable. Why can't the trail users take the initiative and clean up the debris, rather than put all the pressure on the DCR employees?
- Restricting activities is a poor excuse for management. The public should have more access to trails for recreational mountain biking. Mountain bikers have been excellent at volunteering to help improve trail systems in many state parks. Leominster is one good example. They surely could help build and maintain (manage) trails around the Quabbin reservoir. Please consider loosening the bicycling restrictions on the single track trails around the Quabbin.

ORV

- Why allow snowmobiling and not atv four wheeling?
- Arrest the violators of snowmobiles and dirt bikes.
- There should be trails open for ORV use in non sensitive areas, similar to the snowmobile areas, obviously this should be done after mud season. There are no ORV areas in central MA right now. There also should be some camping allowed (primitive) in some areas. I don't see the problem of having a paintball area either, probably it should be an area to be leased where the state could make some \$\$ off the rental of the area, and also closer police what goes on there. Thank you for asking my input.
- Is there a way to increase enforcement of the restrictions on operation of 4-wheelers and/or snowmobiles on watershed land after dark?
- Dirt bikes should have a designated area where the resulting damage can be tolerated and contained.
- Q3: Central Mass does not have any areas to ride ATV's.
- By having a paid permit system, on designated trails, off road vehicle recreation could create jobs and a great source of income for DCR.

Positive Feedback

- Thank you for asking for my input.
- I love the rail trail. Is Greenway Seasonings published yearly? It should be :)
- The DCR Watershed is a wonderful resource that we enjoy year-round, on our own and with our family. We are grateful to have this beautiful area accessible to us and so close and so well maintained.
- I want to thank everyone that is involved in preserving and caring for this wonderful resource.
- I love the trails that are open to the public, and I hope there will be many more years to come!
- Keep up the good work! Ware River Watershed is a treasured resource.
- Keep up the good work.

Snowmobiling

- The trails in RSP become terribly bumpy in winter. Please make it easy for Coldbrook Snowmobile Club to groom trails at RSP. It benefits everyone to have groomed trails.
- I have snowmobiled there for the past 30 years and have respected this area as well as other people.
- I enjoy the winter snowmobiling with my family. It's a nice way to travel the trails through the different towns and enjoy the outdoors.
- The DCR should allow volunteer user groups a little more leniency on their policies towards volunteering. Many agency employees seem to forget that the people helping are volunteers and not paid staff. If there wasn't so much red tape to helping within the park systems more volunteer work would get done. I am of course talking about established organizations within DCR such as the Coldbrook Snowmobile Club.
- let it snow
- It has been vary difficult trying to work with the current management within the park. I belong to coldbrook snowmobile club and wood like to volunteer some time to trail improvement/grooming witch has proven to be an asset to other parks who have experienced beget restraints within the state. We are a volunteer group with little money and can not afford to pay time and a half for a ranger to ride with us well grooming trails! Have some trust in our organization I think you will see how sincere we are

- Wanted to comment on how much we enjoy the area snowmobiling
- Allow the proper marking of trails within the DCR lands to avoid X country skiing and snowmobiles ending up on the same trail
- Snowmobiling has nearly a zero impact on the environment. Please keep this area available for us to ride on and enjoy the forest. Thank you.
- If skiers and hikers want to use club maintained trails for skiing hiking etc, then we should be able to groom and ride snowmobiles on the rail trails.
- I love to use these resources they provide hours of enjoyment for myself and my family, especially in the winter where we would have to travel out of state to go snowmobiling instead we can enjoy it right in our own "backyard". Thank you keep up the good work.
- Allow snowmobile clubs to groom without rangers- this is a waste of tax dollars and we police the park for everyone. Work with your neighbors it was their land once.
- DCR should work easier with established organizations such as the Coldbrook Snowmobile Club realizing that such organizations donate thousands of hours each year to the upkeep and appearance of the state system. Not only time but donating their own funds for DCR benefit. DCR should allow a little more freedom to such organizations and utilize their benefits without all of the extra stuff required.
- I think and have witnessed the impact that snowmobilers have had on the trails their volunteer help with the trail maintenance has made it better for all users.
- If you gauged which group of DCR land users have had the most positive impact on the trail systems throughout the area meaning trail clearing, gate installation, and signage. You will see for yourself that the snowmobilers are at the top. We have learned long ago that you have to give back to these recreation areas and not just keep taking. More groups need to learn this!
- Do not ban snowmobiling. The club does wonders for the dcr with trail clearing. We are a big asset to the area for all forms of recreation, summer or winter. We have non snowmobile members because they see the good we do in the area. (Coldbrook Snowmobile club)
- My understanding is that the snowmobile clubs offer to maintain the trails but they're required to have dept. people with them. I suggest that you allow them to work alone - then they can do more off hours when the department is closed.

Other

- Keep Women's Federation open year round for hunting, camping, and fishing.
- The Ware River runs below and beside the Barre dump!! brown foam in water! yuk! yuk! (glad I have a well)
- Stop letting the developers in Rutland get away with "breaking the environmental protection laws!" Without enforcement this is all meaningless! I'd like to be a citizen advisor.
- Please someone catch that ... guy.
- please post results / feedback
- Continue to work with the public for feedback and comments. Ask for ideas to ways to make the watershed area utilized but kept clean and up to date.
- People need to get involved at community level. It is in their best interest to help preserve these lands for future sustainability. I hope that more people are getting back to family outdoor activities, those of which are harmless to the earth/water/wildlife. They need to realize the value these vital properties possess. I would think community outreach programs and being active at town meetings would be helpful.
- This area is an IBA and an important resource for breeding birds, mammals, and plants

Appendix F - Abutter Survey

Disclaimer: Some of the respondent's comments were separated into different headings for organizational purposes

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Where do you live? (Town, State)?

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
Hubbardston	38.2%	26
Rutland	35.3%	24
Barre	7.4%	5
Oakham	4.4%	3
Paxton	4.4%	3
Other	10.3%	7
<i>answered question</i>		68
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Response Text	Response Text
Rutland	Hubbardston
Gardner	Hubbardston
Shrewsbury	Hubbardston
Paxton	Rutland
Barre	Rutland
Barre	Hubbardston
Oakham	Hubbardston
Oakham	Rutland
Paxton	Hubbardston
Barre	Rutland
Barre	Rutland
Oakham	Hubbardston
Templeton	Rutland
Princeton	Rutland
Paxton	Rutland
Barre	Hubbardston
Belchertown	Hubbardston
Holden	Rutland
Rutland	Rutland
Rutland	Hubbardston
Rutland	Hubbardston
Hubbardston	Hubbardston
Hubbardston	Hubbardston
Hubbardston	Rutland
Hubbardston	Hubbardston
Leverett	Hubbardston
Hubbardston	Rutland
Rutland	Rutland
rutland	Hubbardston
Rutland	Hubbardston
Hubbardston	
Hubbardston	
Rutland	
Hubbardston	
Rutland	
Rutland	
Rutland	
Hubbardston	

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

How many years have you lived in this town?		
		Response Count
Average	27.43	68
Range	1-88	
<i>answered question</i>		68
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Response Text	Response Text
3	52
60	29
17	55
50	24
21	36
57	12
28	19
30	27
61	67
24	8
19	22
25	5
20	24
16	15
48	17
6	24
25	25
40	25
3	27
1	40
9	22
13	35
21	7
9	20
36	20
24	30
41	
32	
18	
88	
25	
52	
12	
24	
16	
60	
25	
3	
23	
11	
19	
63	

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Age (in years)?		
	Response Percentage	Response Count
Average		64
Range		36-93
36-49	16.2%	11
50-59	35.3%	24
60-69	25.0%	17
70-79	20.6%	14
80-95	2.9%	2
		68
<i>answered question</i>		68
<i>skipped question</i>		0

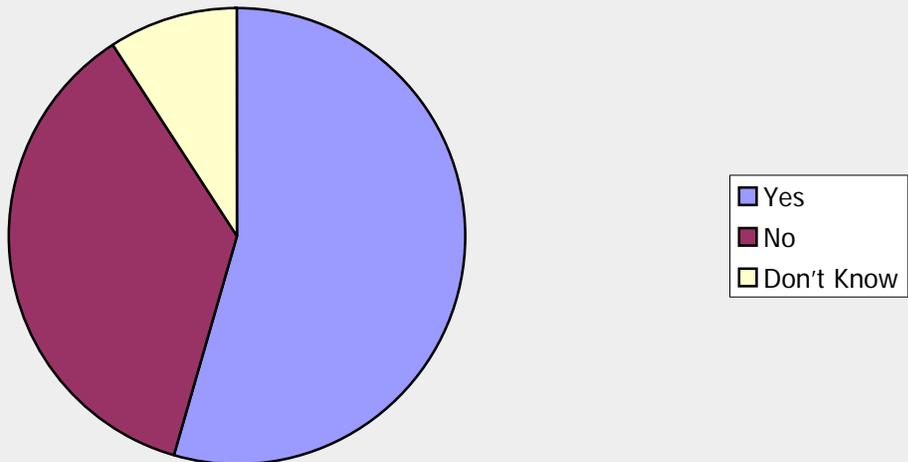
Response Text	Response Text
63	65
79	51
45	62
64	57
58	48
57	52
54	63
56	52
93	53
70	60
78	46
75	65
79	47
48	36
78	52
71	67
50	43
71	54
65	57
78	53
49	54
68	56
46	53
67	67
76	67
66	52
65	70
77	58
53	71
88	61
50	55
77	60
40	59
59	
43	

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Do you live within the Ware River Watershed inside the watershed boundary?

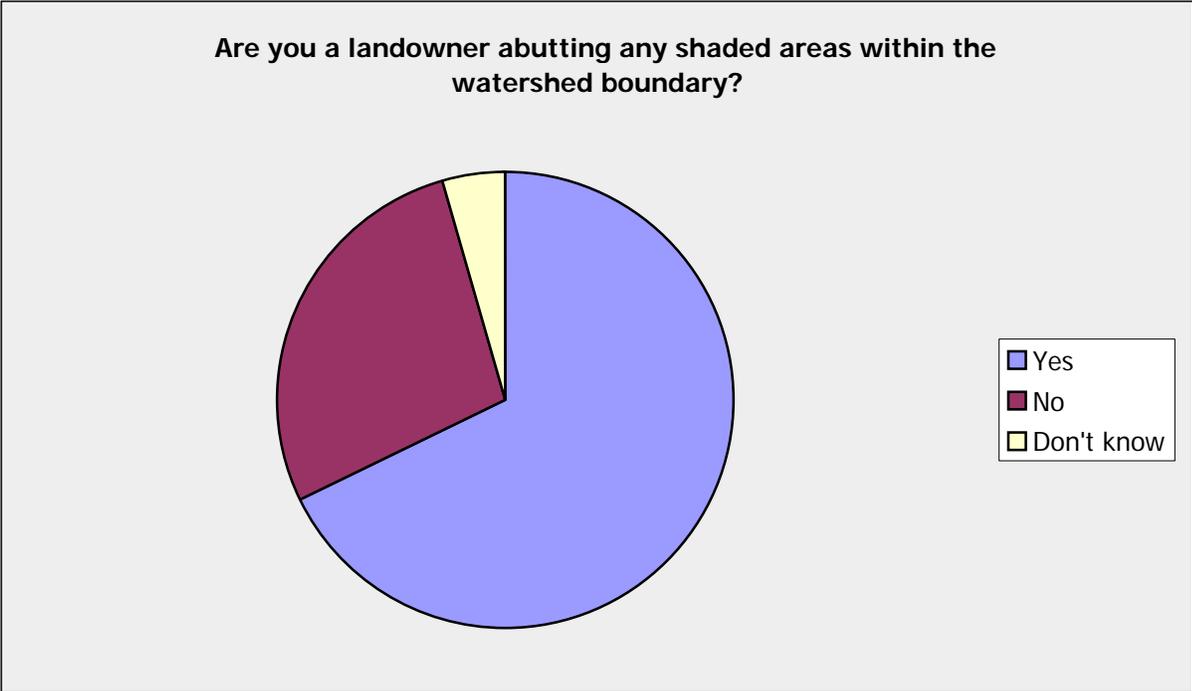
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	54.5%	36
No	36.4%	24
Don't Know	9.1%	6
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Do you live within the Ware River Watershed inside the watershed boundary?



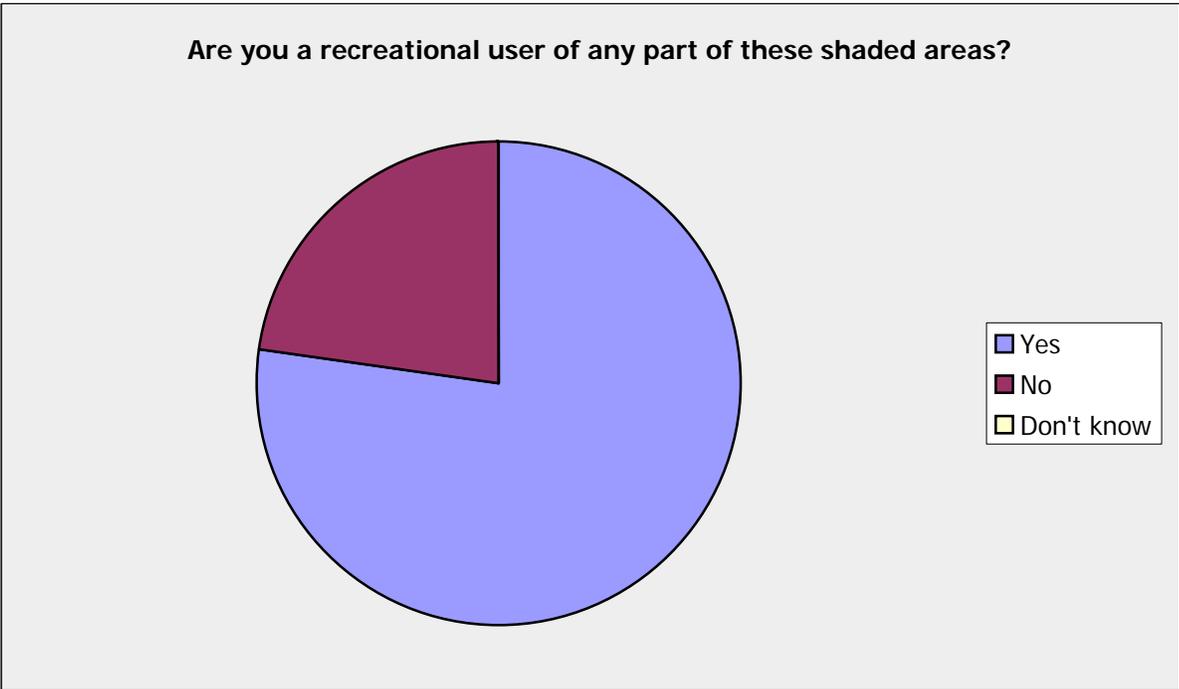
Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Are you a landowner abutting any shaded areas within the watershed boundary?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	67.6%	46
No	27.9%	19
Don't know	4.4%	3
<i>answered question</i>		68
<i>skipped question</i>		0



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

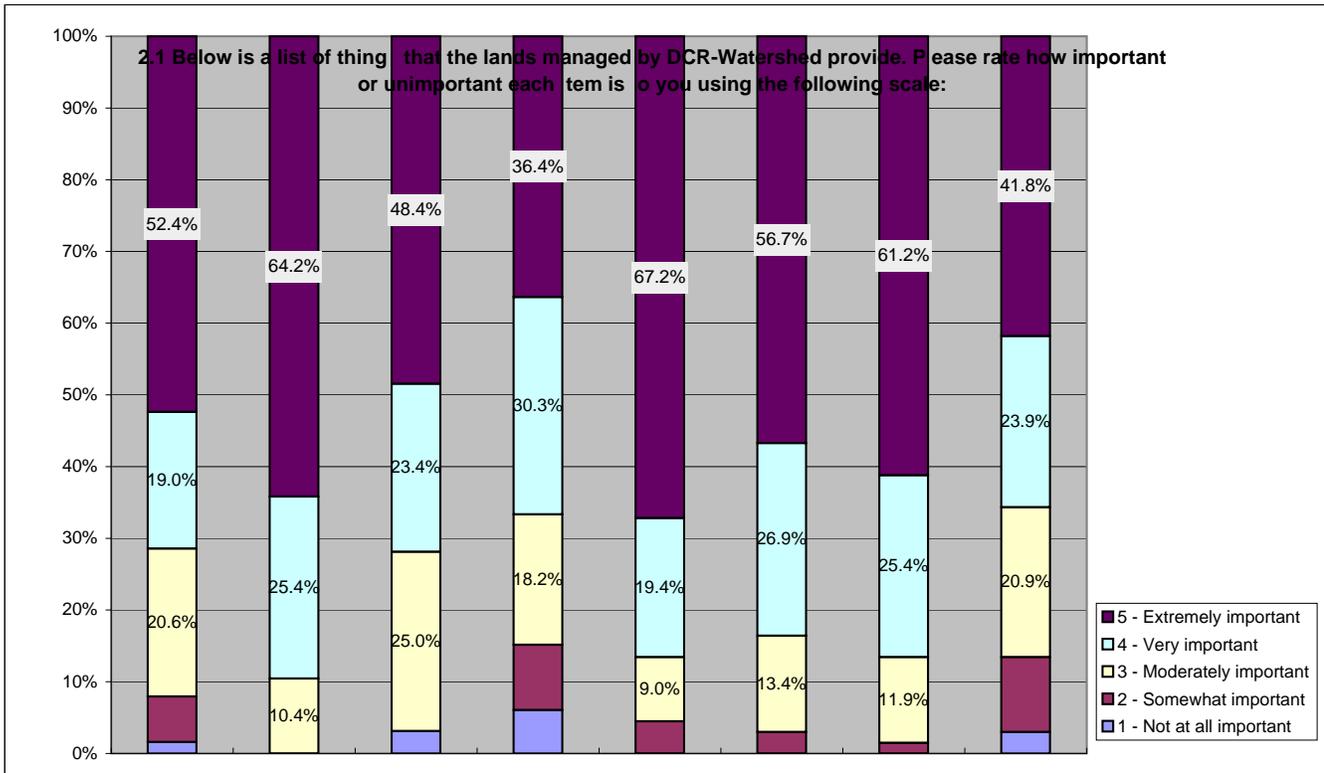
Are you a recreational user of any part of these shaded areas?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	77.3%	51
No	22.7%	15
Don't know	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Below is a list of things that the lands managed by DCR-Watershed provide. Please rate how important or unimportant each item is to you using the following scale:

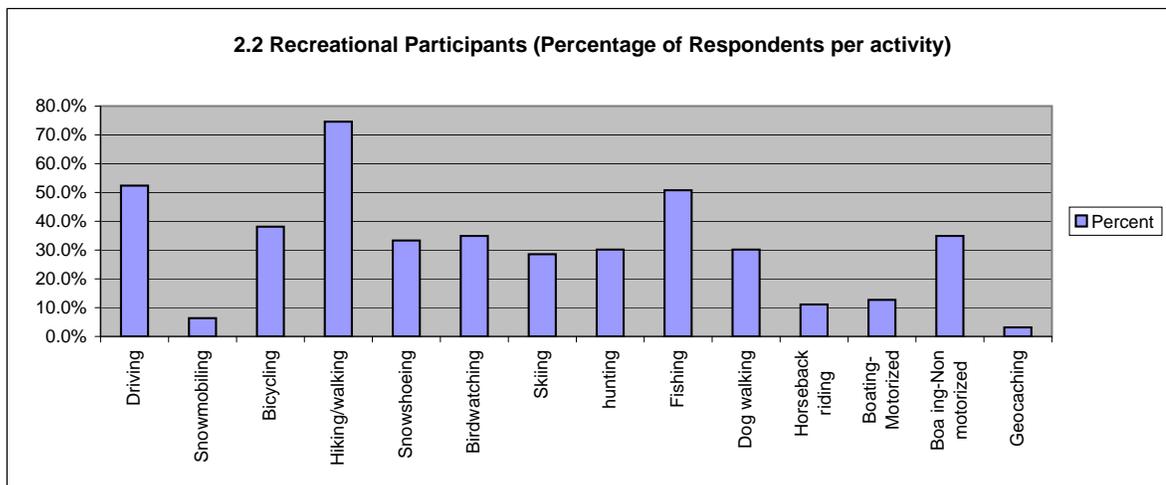
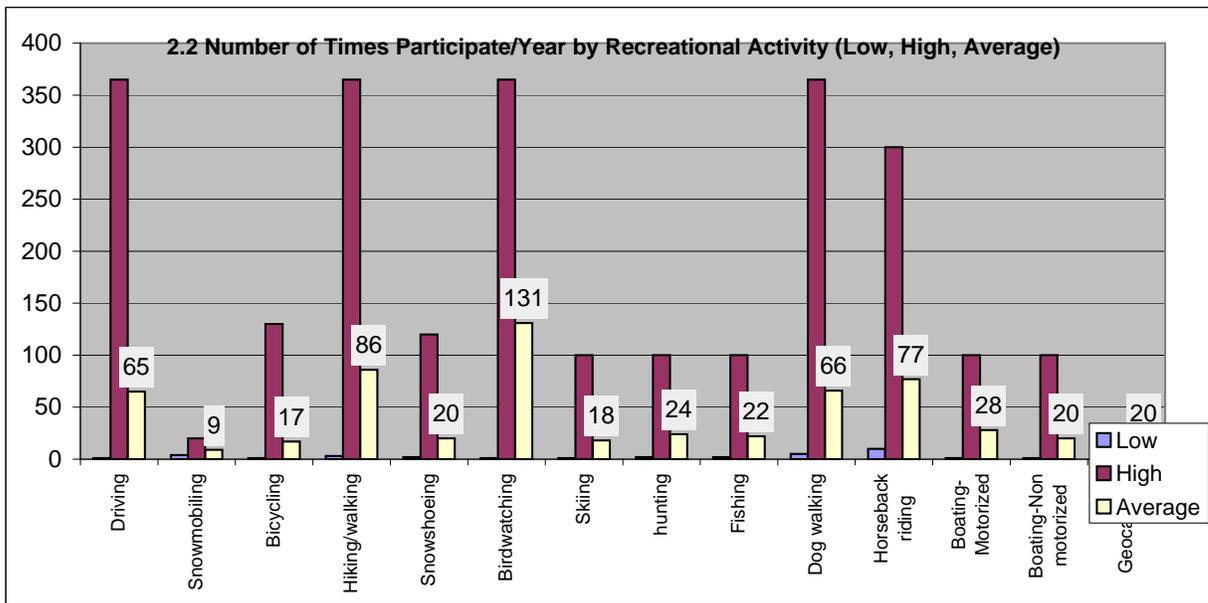
Answer Options	1 - Not at all important	2 - Somewhat important	3 - Moderately important	4 - Very important	5 - Extremely important	Rank	Response Count
Privacy (for abutting landowners)	1.6% (1)	6.3% (4)	20.6% (13)	19% (12)	52.4% (33)	4.14	63
Wildlife	0	0	10.4% (7)	25.4% (17)	64.2% (43)	4.53	67
Aesthetics	3.1% (2)	0	25.0% (16)	23.4% (15)	48.4% (31)	4.14	64
Public access/recreation	6.1% (4)	9.1% (6)	18.2% (12)	30.3% (20)	36.4% (24)	3.81	66
Public drinking water supply	0	4.5% (3)	9.0% (6)	19.4% (13)	67.2% (45)	4.49	67
Solitude/Wilderness	0	3.0% (2)	13.4% (9)	26.9% (18)	56.7% (38)	4.37	67
Healthy forest	0	1.5% (1)	11.9% (8)	25.4% (17)	61.2% (41)	4.46	67
Historic Artifacts(e.g., cellar holes,	3.0% (2)	10.4% (7)	20.9% (14)	23.9% (16)	41.8% (28)	3.91	67
Answered Question							67
Skipped Question							1



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Below is a list of recreational activities. Please write the estimated number of times you participate in each of these recreational activities on DCR-Watershed lands/waters in the Ware River Watershed per year.

ACTIVITY	Number Participate	Responses	Percent	RANGE			Median	Mode
				Low	High	Average		
Driving	33	63	52.4%	1	365	65	20	20
Snowmobiling	4	63	6.3%	4	20	9	6	6
Bicycling	24	63	38.1%	1	130	17	10	10
Hiking/walking	47	63	74.6%	3	365	86	30	10
Snowshoeing	21	63	33.3%	2	120	20	5	5
Birdwatching	22	63	34.9%	1	365	131	60	200
Skiing	18	63	28.6%	1	100	18	7	5
hunting	19	63	30.2%	2	100	24	25	25
Fishing	32	63	50.8%	2	100	22	15	20
Dog walking	19	63	30.2%	5	365	66	30	30
Horseback riding	7	63	11.1%	10	300	77	50	50
Boating- Motorized	8	63	12.7%	1	100	28	12	10
Boating-Non motorized	22	63	34.9%	1	100	20	10	10
Geocaching	2	63	3.2%	20	20	20	20	20
<i>answered question</i>			63					
<i>skipped question</i>			5					



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Please list any other recreational activities that do not appear on the list above and the number of

Answer Options	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	14
<i>skipped question</i>	54

Response

Text

walking

Photography- whenever time allows

meditating, 25

Sites relating to historic events and people of BARRE I.E. Prince Walker-slave

wildlife viewing, 200

canoeing

deer scouting 50, deer watching 50

scouting for hunting, 20

stargazing, meteor viewing, photography

running

swimming, water sports 60

photography/nature study 40

looking for wildlife

jogging 100

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

From the previous list, in which activity do you participate most often on DCR-Watershed land in the Ware River Watershed?

Answer Options	Response Count
	54
<i>answered question</i>	54
<i>skipped question</i>	14

Response Text	Response Text
hiking	hunting, fishing
hiking	hunting, fishing
hiking	hunting/fishing
hiking	hunting, fishing, dog walking
hiking	hiking, birdwatching
hiking	walking, snowshoeing
hiking	Driving, Birdwatching
hiking	hiking, biking
hiking	walking, bicycling, driving
hiking	biking, hiking, snowmobiling
hiking/walking	horseback riding, dog walking
walking/hiking	walking, skiing
walking	hunting
walking	hunting and scouting
walking	fishing
dog walking	fishing
hiking with dog	horseback riding
dog walking	horseback riding
Dog walking, hiking	horseback riding
hunting	snowmobiling
hunting	snowmobiling
hunting	Mountain biking
hunting	hunting, kayaking
hunting	fishing, hunting

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

If you conduct your recreational activities as part of a group or official organization, how many people are in your group/organization?

Answer Options	Response Count
	4
<i>answered question</i>	4
<i>skipped question</i>	64

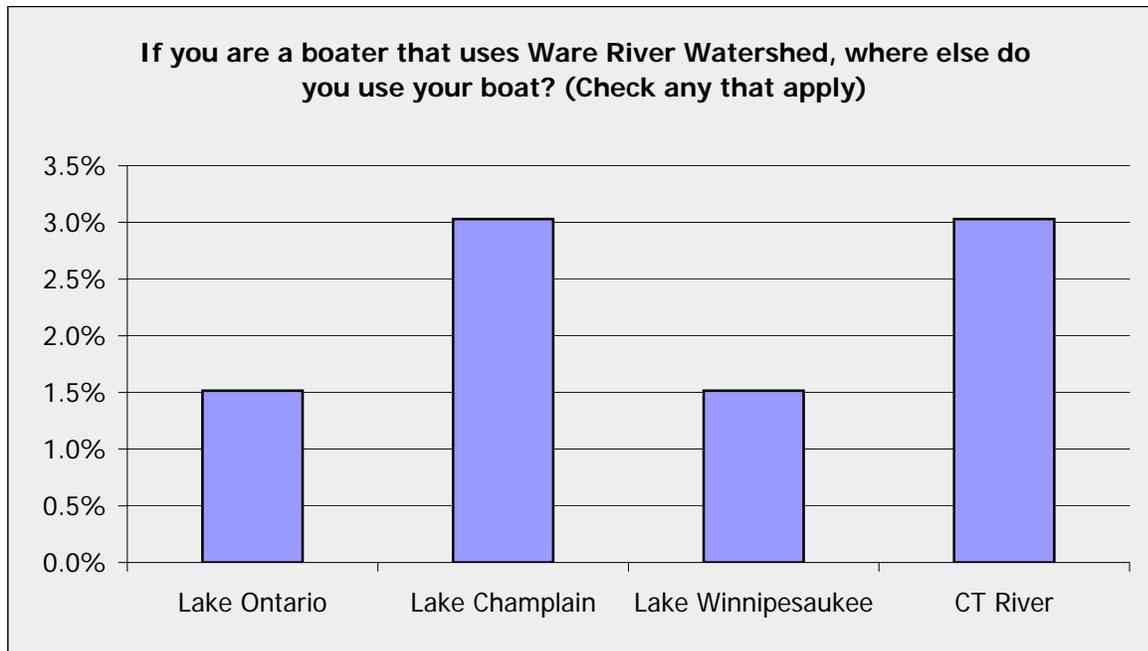
Response Text
600
1
100
6

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

If you are a boater that uses Ware River Watershed, where else do you use your boat? (Check any that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Lake Ontario	1.5%	1
Lake Champlain	3.0%	2
Lake Winnepesaukee	1.5%	1
CT River	3.0%	2
Other - List Other - List	13.6%	9
answered question		9
skipped question		57

Other - List
Long Pond
Demond Pond
Moosehead Lake
small streams and rivers in New England
local ponds and stream
other local rivers/ponds in MA
Quabbin
Quabbin
salt water



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Please list the name of the official organization(s)
(if any).

Answer Options	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	6
<i>skipped question</i>	62

Response

Text

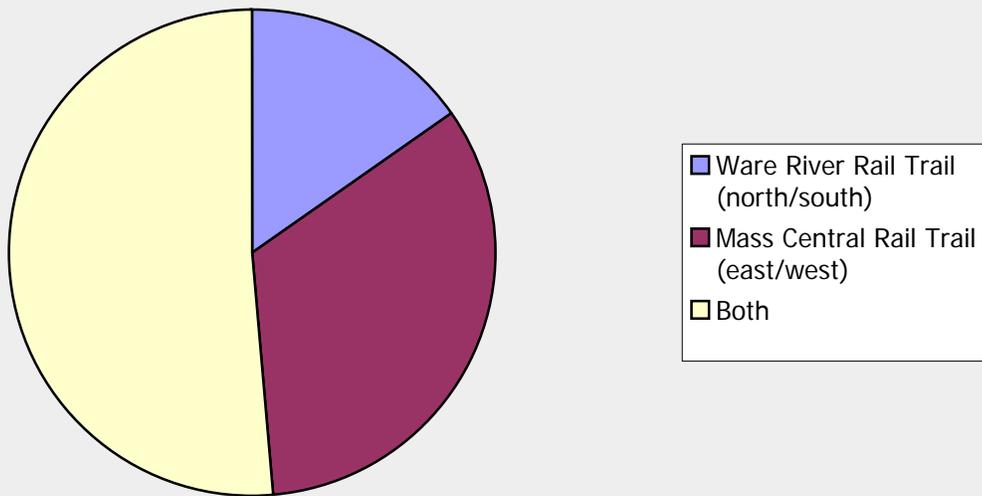
Mass Audubon Society
coldbrook snowmobiling club
Barre Historical Society
Historical commision, historical society
BSTRA, NEHT, Barre Riders
GF&G

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Do you use either or both rail trails in Ware River Watershed?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Ware River Rail Trail (north/south)	15.4%	6
Mass Central Rail Trail (east/west)	33.3%	13
Both	51.3%	20
<i>answered question</i>		39
<i>skipped question</i>		29

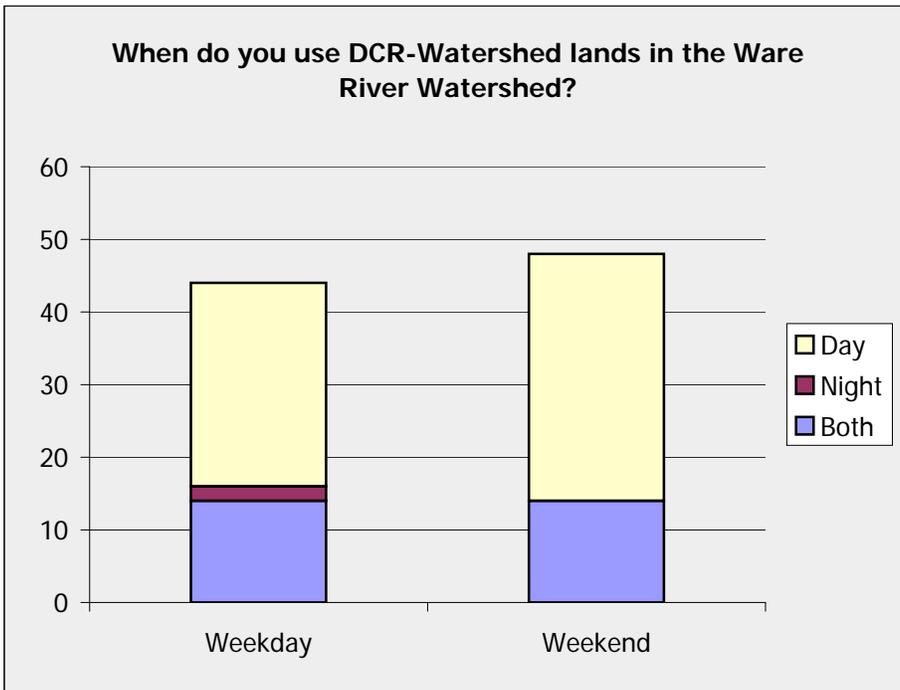
Do you use either or both rail trails in Ware River Watershed?



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

When do you use DCR-Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed?

Answer Options	Day	Night	Both	Response Count
Weekday	28	2	14	44
Weekend	34	0	14	48
<i>answered question</i>				52
<i>skipped question</i>				16



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Please list the types of recreational activities in which you participate on the rail trails.

Answer Options	Response Percentage	Response Count
Hiking/Walking	29.40%	10
Hiking/Walking/Biking	20.60%	7
Combination/Other	50%	17
		34
	<i>answered question</i>	34
	<i>skipped question</i>	34

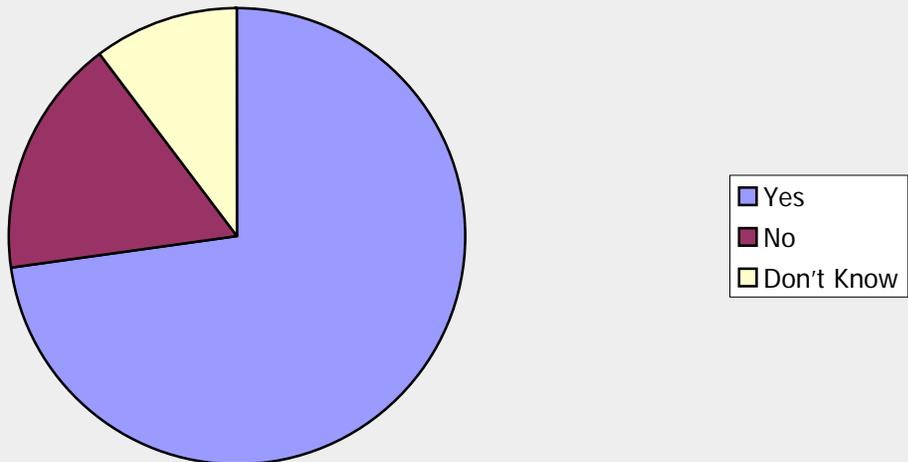
Response Text
walking
hiking
hiking
hiking
horseback riding
horseback riding
XC skiing
snowmobiling
hunting
hiking, dog walking
hiking, dog walking
hiking, photography, XC skiing
hiking, access to other locations
walking, biking
hiking, mountain biking
run, bike, walk
walking, biking
hiking, biking
hike, mtb
bicycling, hiking/walking
walking, horseback
horseback riding, dog walking
hiking, snowshoeing, dog walking
walking, bicycling, running, snowshoeing
walking, bird watching, photography
walking, biking, XC-skiing
horseback riding, walking, biking
hiking, dog walking, xc skiing

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Have you seen signage indicating officially designated trails for certain activities, such as snowmobile and horseback riding?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	72.9%	43
No	16.9%	10
Don't Know	10.2%	6
<i>answered question</i>		59
<i>skipped question</i>		9

Have you seen signage indicating officially designated trails for certain activities, such as snowmobile and horseback riding?

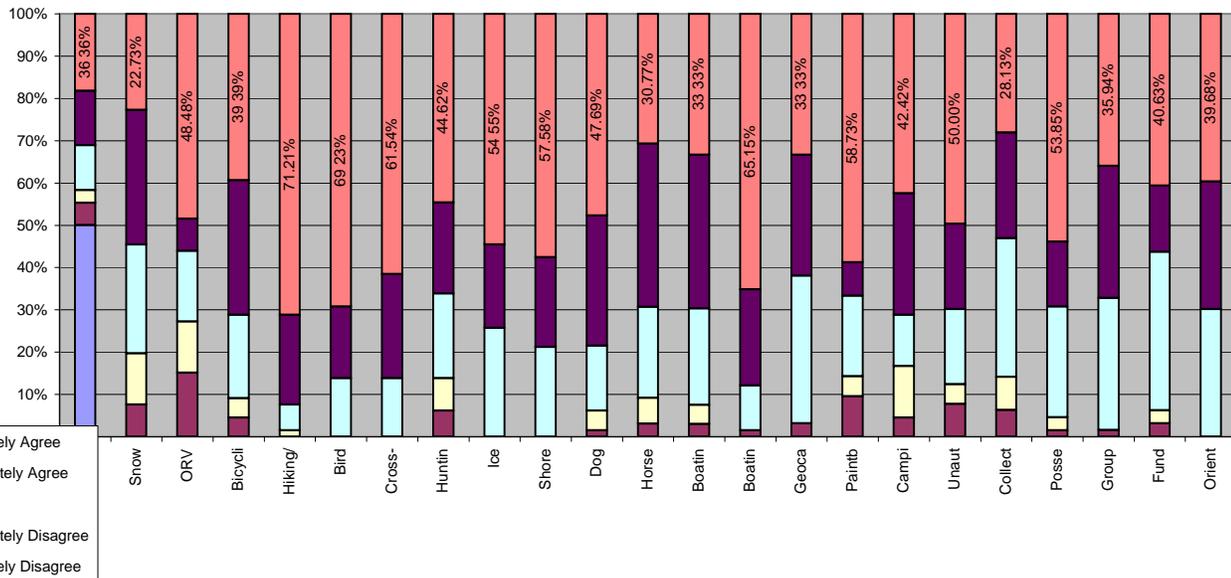


Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following policies using the scale below. Please list any suggestions for policy changes in the comment box at the bottom of this table.

Answer Options	Rank					Rank	Response Count
	4 Extremely Disagree	3 Moderately Disagree	0 Neutral	2 Moderately Agree	1 Extremely Agree		
Driving: Allowed through open gates on maintained roads	10.6% (7)	6.06% (4)	21.21% (14)	25.76% (17)	36.36% (24)	1.88	66
Snowmobiling: Allowed on designated and posted trails under certain conditions	7.58% (5)	12.12% (8)	25.76% (17)	31.82% (21)	22.73% (15)	2.06	66
Operating ORV's : Prohibited on all DCR-Watershed lands and roads	15.9% (10)	12.12% (8)	16.67% (11)	7.58% (5)	48.48% (32)	1.93	66
Bicycling: Allowed on designated woods roads except during mud season or on closed roads. Off-road Single-track is prohibited.	4.55% (3)	4.55% (3)	19.70% (13)	31.82% (21)	39.39% (26)	1.68	66
Hiking/Walking/Snowshoeing: Allowed except in restricted areas	0	1.52% (1)	6.06% (4)	21.21% (14)	71.21% (47)	1.26	66
Bird Watching: Allowed except in restricted areas	0	0	13.85% (9)	16.92% (11)	69.23% (45)	1.2	65
Cross-Country Skiing: Allowed except in restricted areas	0	0	13.85% (9)	24.62% (16)	61.54% (40)	1.29	65
Hunting: Allowed with MA license except in restricted areas	6.15% (4)	7.69% (5)	20.00% (13)	21.54% (14)	44.62% (29)	1.69	65
Ice Fishing: Allowed with a MA license	0	0	25.76% (17)	19.70% (13)	54.55% (36)	1.27	66
Shore Fishing: Allowed in designated areas at designated times	0	0	21.21% (14)	21.21% (14)	57.58% (38)	1.27	66
Dog Walking: Allowed, with the request that owners pick up and properly dispose of any fecal waste 100 ft of tributary or surface water.	1.54% (1)	4.62% (3)	15.38% (10)	30.77% (20)	47.69% (31)	1.53	65
Horseback Riding: Allowed on designated roads and trails according to specific restrictions (e.g. walking/watering horses)	3.08% (2)	6.15% (4)	21.54% (14)	38.64% (25)	30.77% (20)	1.76	65
Boating- Motorized: Allowed in off-reservation waters (e.g. Long Pond) with restrictions	3.01% (2)	4.55% (3)	22.73% (15)	36.36% (24)	33.33% (22)	1.71	66
Boating- Non-motorized (e.g. kayaking, canoeing): Allowed, except in restricted areas	1.52% (1)	0	10.61% (7)	22.73% (15)	65.15% (43)	1.31	66
Geocaching*: Allowed according to state regulations	3.17% (2)	0	34.92% (22)	28.57% (18)	33.33% (21)	1.59	63
Paintball: Prohibited by state regulations	9.52% (6)	4.76% (3)	19.05% (12)	7.94% (5)	58.73% (37)	1.57	63
Camping: Prohibited in the Ware River Reservation. Includes tents, trailers, lean-tos, and motor homes.	4.55% (3)	12.12% (8)	12.12% (8)	28.79% (19)	42.42% (28)	1.76	66
Unauthorized Trail Marking/Advertising/Trail Clearing: Prohibited by state regulation	7.81% (5)	4.69% (3)	17.9% (11)	20.31% (13)	50.00% (32)	1.64	64
Collecting/Metal Detecting: Prohibited by state regulation	6.35% (4)	7.81% (5)	32.81% (21)	25.00% (16)	28.13% (18)	1.88	64
Possessing Alcohol: Prohibited by regulation	1.54% (1)	3.08% (2)	26.15% (17)	15.38% (10)	53.85% (35)	1.35	65
Group Activities (25+ people): Allowed with DCR-Watershed permit in designated areas at designated times	1.56% (1)	0	31.25% (20)	31.25% (20)	35.94% (23)	1.52	64
Fund Raisers: Prohibited unless given written approval by Regional Director	3.13% (2)	3.13% (2)	37.50% (24)	15.63% (10)	40.63% (26)	1.5	64
Orienteering**: Allowed, consistent with state regulations	0	0	30.16% (19)	30.16% (19)	39.68% (25)	1.43	63
<i>answered question</i>							66
<i>skipped question</i>							2

3.1 Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following policies using the scale below.



Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Comments:	
Answer Options	Response Count
Yes	12
<i>answered question</i>	
12	
<i>skipped question</i>	
25	

Response Text
ATV traffic on restricted roads/paths continues. Would like development of more hiking trails, maps etc.
Automobile racing- kids drinking at night! Dumping trash/old food etc broken bottles on roads...
Ban Skidoos and LIMIT horsepower on smaller ponds i.e. Demond Pond (Under 100 hp)
should allow motorboats on more ponds (HP restriction like Quabbin)
bicycles should be allowed on the rail trails not the hiking trails. They tear up the terrain.
Geocaching people can find and destroy archeology that could be found at a later date by a professional archeology team. Hunting dogs only during bird season- dog walkers won't pick up their waste. Because of bars in gates, I can no longer walk long distances to fish in the rivers where I want to fish.
I don't think horseback riding should be a restricted activity.
I've been somewhat active with the Ware River Watershed in regard to horseback riding.
let as many folks use the land as want to.
keep any motorized, noisy & air polluting vehicles out of the woods, it's annoying and harmful to the environment.
*Additional Bicycle and horseback trails could be added with NEGLIGABLE impacts.
Snowmobilers on undesignated trails and forcing my XC-skiing kids off trails; afraid to walk on trails during hunting season

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Pertaining to the public input process used to update the Ware River Public Access Management Plan (past surveys, this survey, advisory committee meetings, etc.), how satisfied/dissatisfied are you? If you are dissatisfied, in what ways do you think it can be improved?

	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	26
<i>skipped question</i>	42

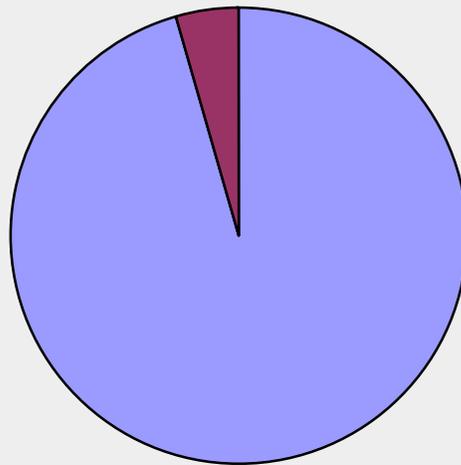
Response Text
satisfied
satisfied
satisfied
I think you have made a great effort in obtaining public input and at the same time protect the watershed- Thank you.
satisfied
satisfied
satisfied
very satisfied
I think the gates to the rivers should be kept open- there are many ways to catch people who dump trash- \$1,000 fine would help.
sought.
Satisfied
satisfied
satisfied- keep the regulations at a minimum!
very satisfied
DISSATISFIED
No complaints, I believe the area is well managed especially with the ice storm damage
Patrol the arrow, enforce the rules, disallow dogs
more patrol and fines for ATV going crazy near water.
you need to police more for illegal activities & leave the nature loving sportsmen/women alone
Satisfied- DCR and previously MDC have worked hard to reach & communicate with abutters & users.
This is the first time I've ever been sent a survey in the 5 years I have lived here. In general, DCR seems to keep a very low profile in Hubbardston, and I feel that Hubbardston DCR issues are ignored.
satisfied
satisfied
Quite satisfied- get the dirtbikes out of the watershed- the riders are adults.
Very Satisfied
I am satisfied w/ current process.

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that the Ware River contributes water to the Quabbin Reservoir, an unfiltered, public drinking water supply?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.5%	63
No	4.5%	3
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that the Ware River contributes water to the Quabbin Reservoir, an unfiltered, public drinking water supply?



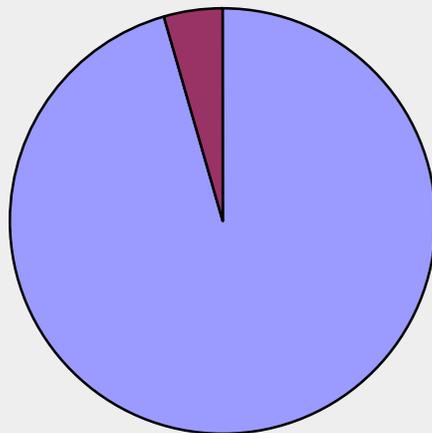
■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed provides drinking water to 2.5 million people primarily in the Boston metropolitan area, and to 3 central MA communities?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.5%	63
No	4.5%	3
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that DCR-Watershed provides drinking water to 2.5 million people primarily in the Boston metropolitan area, and to 3 central MA communities?



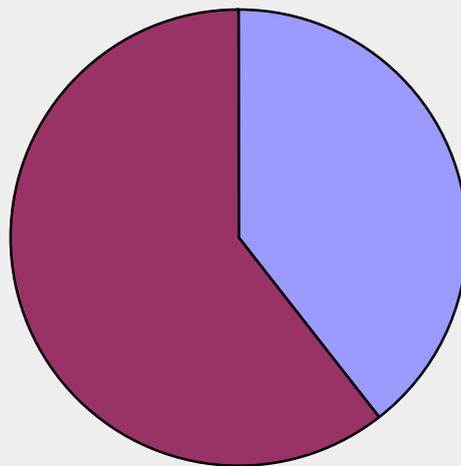
■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed and its activities are funded through water bill payments and not general taxes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	39.4%	26
No	60.6%	40
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that DCR-Watershed and its activities are funded through water bill payments and not general taxes?



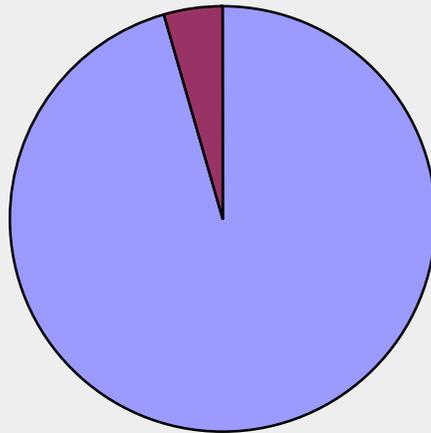
■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that the DCR-Watershed lands are a public resource comprised primarily of lands taken specifically for drinking water supply protection?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.5%	63
No	4.5%	3
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that the DCR-Watershed lands are a public resource comprised primarily of lands taken specifically for drinking water supply protection?

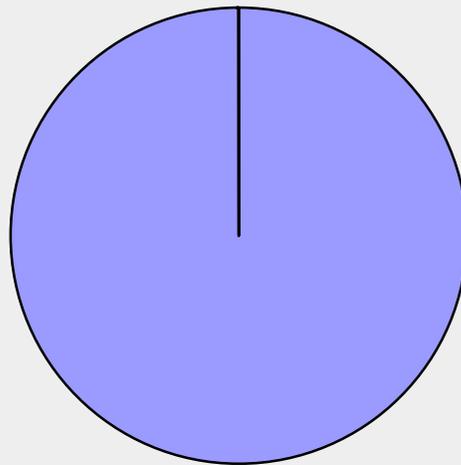


Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that these water supply lands are managed by a state agency and not a private corporation?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	65
No	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		65
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Did you know that these water supply lands are managed by a state agency and not a private corporation?



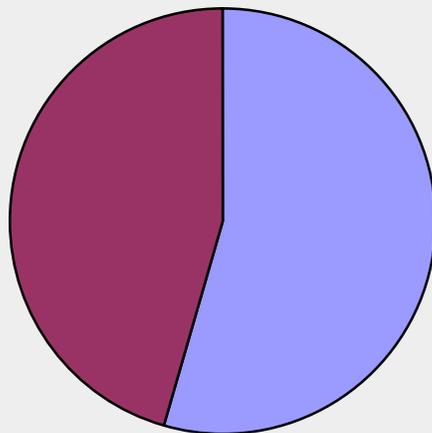
■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that there are two different Divisions responsible for managing DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed: DCR-Watershed (formerly MDC) and DCR-State Parks (formerly DEM)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	54.5%	36
No	45.5%	30
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that there are two different Divisions responsible for managing DCR lands in the Ware River Watershed: DCR-Watershed (formerly MDC) and DCR-State Parks (formerly DEM)?

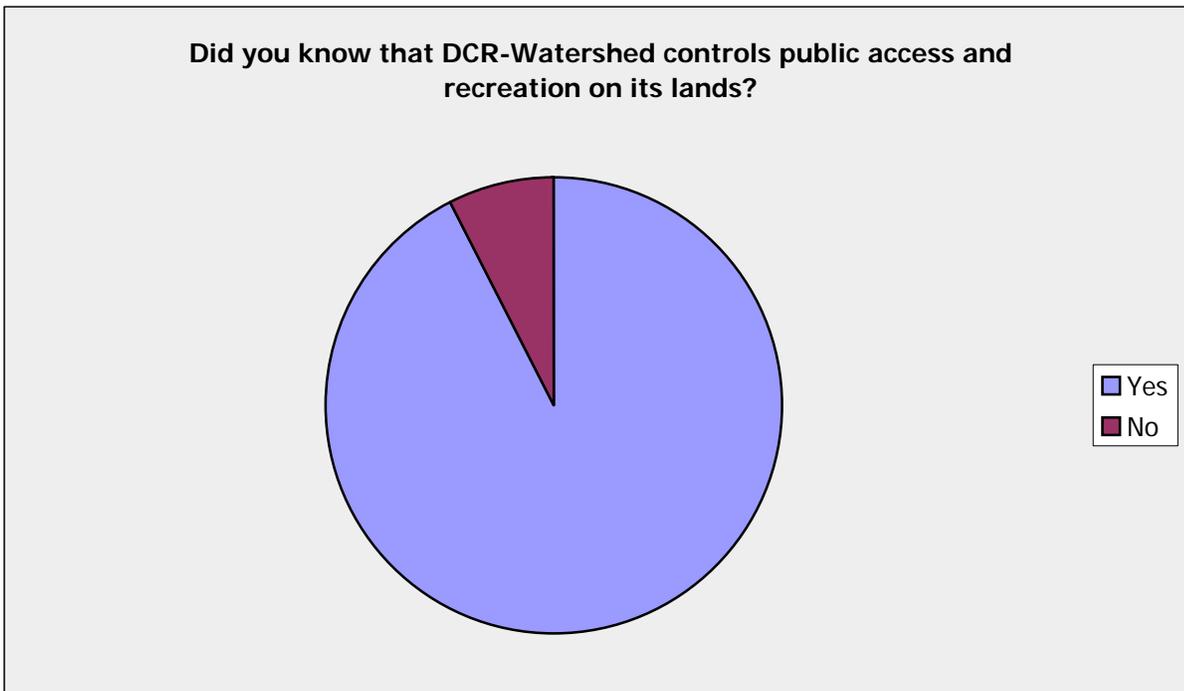


■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed controls public access and recreation on its lands?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.4%	61
No	7.6%	5
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

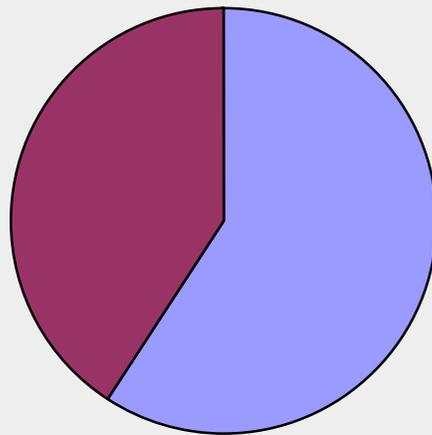


Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that there is a greater variety of recreational opportunities in Ware River Watershed, compared to the Quabbin or Wachusett Watersheds?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	59.1%	39
No	40.9%	27
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that there is a greater variety of recreational opportunities in Ware River Watershed, compared to the Quabbin or Wachusett Watersheds?



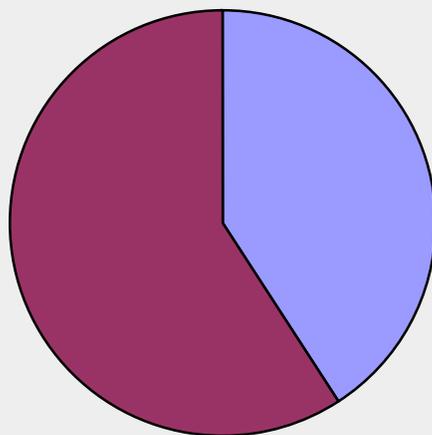
■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that DCR-Watershed's green-certified forest management is developing multi-species, multi-aged forest cover for drinking water quality protection?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	40.9%	27
No	59.1%	39
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that DCR-Watershed's green-certified forest management is developing multi-species, multi-aged forest cover for drinking water quality protection?



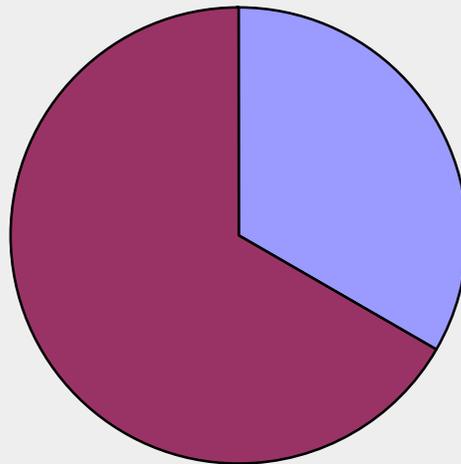
■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that revenues generated from this forest management program are used for watershed management purposes?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	33.3%	22
No	66.7%	44
<i>answered question</i>		66
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Did you know that revenues generated from this forest management program are used for watershed management purposes?

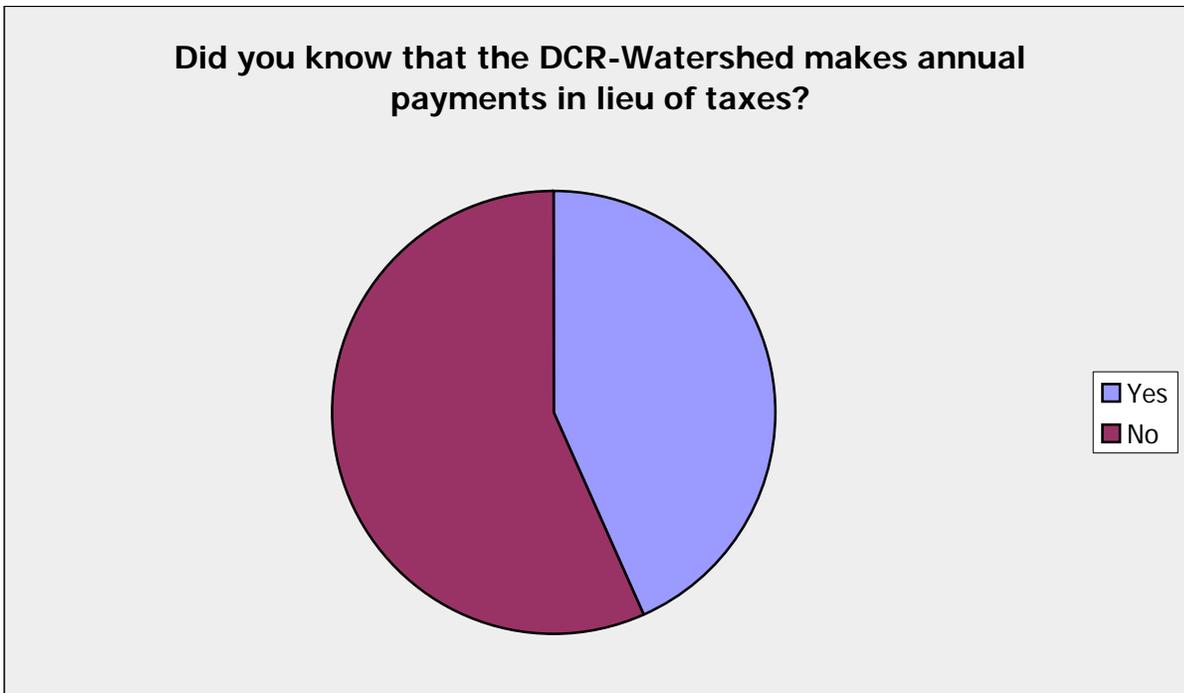


■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that the DCR-Watershed makes annual payments in-lieu-of taxes of nearly \$1 million dollars to Ware River watershed towns that contain property owned by the Commonwealth of MA for drinking water supply and protection? (Barre, Hubbardston, Oakham, Phillipston, Princeton, Rutland and Templeton)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	43.3%	29
No	56.7%	38
<i>answered question</i>		67
<i>skipped question</i>		1

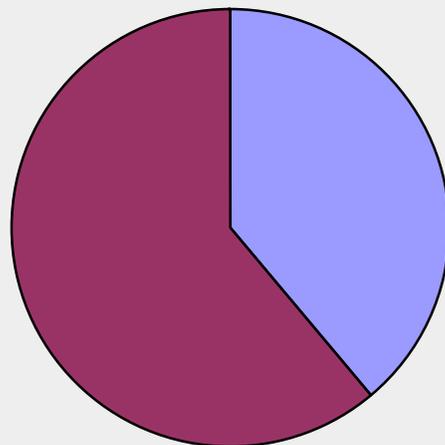


Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Did you know that there is a legislatively-created advisory group, the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC), comprised of town residents, historical societies, and recreational groups to advise DCR-Watershed on its recreation and management policies in the Ware River Watershed?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	38.8%	26
No	61.2%	41
<i>answered question</i>		67
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Did you know that there is a legislatively-created advisory group, the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC)?



■ Yes
■ No

Ware River Watershed Public Access Management Plan: Public Input Survey

Additional Comments Or Suggestions:

	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	28
<i>skipped question</i>	40

Response Text

A favorite swimming hole was at the base of the falls. Born and brought up in Hubbardston

We value the protection of this land for many reasons, including aesthetics, environmental health, wildlife protection, and recreation!

In past years used to horseback ride a lot, too many ATVS there now; too dangerous. official organization even: Combined driving event- about 22 horses and 50 competitors, plus spectators, & visiting the old cemetery. Keep up the good work!

WELL DONE. We are lucky to live in this beautiful area. THANK YOU.

boats coming to Demond Pond bringing big time algae! weeds are overtaking. Pond needs help BIG TIME to eradicate spreading of these weeds!!

Would XC Ski more if trails were packed and tracked.

We are very grateful for all the beautiful land and trails to enjoy. As much land should be protected as possible, we can not get it back.

Thank you to all who serve!

tax or fee- the same thing

Has 100 acres of own land to recreate in, and since does not recreate on DCR land, does not have an opinion or comments.

Did you know

-that in the month of March when the ice is ready to give way in the rivers, there are beaver pellets piled up approximately 10" to 1' high at the edges of the beaver dams ready to float down into the Ware River.

-that STOCKED trout bellies are full of these beaver pellets in the spring

-DCR officers throw thier cigars on the ice at Comet Pond, and also don't prosecute people who litter the ice with cigarette butts

-fish eat the filters of cigarettes and possibly die as a result

-a fine of \$1,000+ for littering the side roads of watershed land would help stop the littering of refridgerators etc.

-fish ladders would help on all these streams and rivers. I cannot see one on at the intake building (shame on you)

-some historical sites have been destroyed by MDC on state land

-I have been watching and will be looking, and use trail cameras to catch bad guys.

-Mister Gorbacheck take down this gate

The land is a great resource for people wanting to enjoy nature and natural settings. There should be as little restriction as possible, to maintain and protect the land.

Too many beavers! They have done too much damage.

I appreciate work that DCR is doing. I use the Mass Central rail trail all the time and enjoy it.

DCR, MassWildlife and other state agencies should work to get fur trapping back. Since Question 1, the beavers are making a mess of this area and at a cost to the taxpayers.

Why is boating for the purpose of fishing allowed on the Quabbin but not dogs/horses in the Quabbin?

Quabbin has too many regulations. For that reason I hardly go there!

Keep up the good work!

Keep the regulations to a minimum.

I really enjoy this land- you manage it well!

Snowmobiles help keep hiking accesible for walkers & skiiers- let them keep going!

I understand that the Ware is sent to Connecticut.

Doing good. Keep managing the forest people do not know what they have!

Please control the activities at Comet Pond in Hubbardston

Thank You :)

Thank you for taking the time to prepare, distribute, and compile this survey.

* I would like to know more about this group. Is membership on the advisory group by appointment or by election? I have requested that DCR-DWSP hold public forums in our town and neighboring towns regarding permitted uses and especially to educate the communities about illegal motorized vehicle use and citizen options for reporting abuse. I also would like specific information and direction about the appropriate contacts to lobby for more attention to Hubbardston, and would like to push for increased funding for enforcement personnel. Illegal motorized vehicle users are ruining trails, damaging vegetation and harming wildlife throughout the WRW. Thank you.

weeds in Demond Pond are getting bad. Can anything be done?

control beaver population that are destroying trees, river banks, and beauty of land- they also pollute the waters, land and could be a health hazard. Too many side roads blocked to drive down to go fishing in the Ware River.

keep roads accessible- repair/replace bridges.

Protection of the fragile water supply is critical! Congratulations and thank you for all your work.

I value access to the watershed area.

The Ware River is being RUINED by the Beavers- you take wonderful care of the land in the watershed- it is now time to take care of the water! the fish habitat for cold water species is being ruined by the beavers. The quality is poor. Temperatures are high! Fish habitat is being destroyed. Please declare the Ware Watershed a beaver free zone and eradicate them. Then you can take more & better quality water when needed.

Abutter Survey Comments

Question 3.1. Do you agree or disagree with the following management policies- comments:

Boating

- Ban Skidoos and LIMIT horsepower on smaller ponds i.e. Demond Pond (Under 100 hp)
- should allow motorboats on more ponds (HP restriction like Quabbin)

Horseback riding

- I don't think horseback riding should be a restricted activity.
- I've been somewhat active with the Ware River Watershed in regard to horseback riding.

Mountain Biking

- Bicycles should be allowed on the rail trails not the hiking trails. They tear up the terrain.
- Additional Bicycle and horseback trails could be added with NEGLIGABLE impacts.

ORV

- ATV traffic on restricted roads/paths continues.
- Keep any motorized, noisy & air polluting vehicles out of the woods, it's annoying and harmful to the environment.

Other

- Would like development of more hiking trails, maps etc.
- Automobile racing- kids drinking at night! Dumping trash/old food etc broken bottles on roads...
- Geocaching people can find and destroy archeology that could be found at a later date by a professional archeology team.
- Hunting dogs only during bird season- dog walkers won't pick up their waste.
- Because of bars in gates, I can no longer walk long distances to fish in the rivers where I want to fish.
- Let as many folks use the land as want to.
- Snowmobilers on undesignated trails and forcing my XC-skiing kids off trails; afraid to walk on trails during hunting season.

Question 3.2. Have you experienced any recreational conflicts with other users while on DCR Watershed lands in the Ware River Watershed?

Dogs

- Dog not under owner control attacking my dog
- Just w/ other dogs & I consider that my problem not DCR's
- dogs in water- throwing dog feces into water at comet pond- swimming in areas marked "no swimming"
- Litter! Leaving trash! Dog poop!

Hunting

- Hunters and their guns/ignoring posted signs
- Hunter with loaded guns walking on the hiking trails.
- You should tell hunters to pick up after themselves- there is always an increase in human waste (literally) after and during hunting season!
- Hikers walking the mid-state with fur hats and coats during deer season. When stopped and told, they were not aware of the season.
- no. All horse back riders should wear glow orange during hunting seasons- I have seen some not wearing it.
- Hikers not wearing orange during hunting season.
- drunk hunters littering
- Evidence of drinking- concern when I'm walking with grandchildren.

ORV

- Dirt Bikes & ATV's.
- ATVS making their own trails
- I have run into ATVs and dirt bikes on occasion
- no- I have met motorized vehicles while horseback riding and they have been very courteous
- ATV's illegally driving through the woods & snowmobiles driving over wetlands in the winter.
- Snowmobilers using non-designated areas. ATV's/dirt bikes disregarding rules.
- All "conflicts" have been with ILLEGAL users of ATV's, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles (in non-designated areas). Also illegal trail-cutting.
- I think DCR lands should be closed off to ALL motorized vehicles and hunting.
- Yes. A half dozen times each year we are harassed by dirt bikes and Quads while bicycling at the dikes and prison camp.

Question 3.3. Pertaining to the public input process used to update the Ware River Public Access Management Plan (past surveys, this survey, advisory committee meetings, etc.), how satisfied/dissatisfied are you? If you are dissatisfied, in what ways do you think it can be improved?

Enforcement

- Patrol the area, enforce the rules, and disallow dogs.
- More patrol and fines for ATV going crazy near water.
- you need to police more for illegal activities & leave the nature loving sportsmen/women alone.
- I think the gates to the rivers should be kept open- there are many ways to catch people who dump trash- \$1,000 fine would help

Dissatisfied

- Dissatisfied.
- This is the first time I've ever been sent a survey in the 5 years I have lived here. In general, DCR seems to keep a very low profile in Hubbardston, and I feel that Hubbardston DCR issues are ignored.

Satisfied

- I think you have made a great effort in obtaining public input and at the same time protect the watershed- Thank you.
- I think that its great that public opinion is being sought.
- Satisfied- keep the regulations at a minimum!
- No complaints, I believe the area is well managed especially with the ice storm damage
- Satisfied- DCR and previously MDC have worked hard to reach & communicate with abutters & users.
- Quite satisfied- get the dirt bikes out of the watershed- the riders are adults.

Additional comments and suggestions

Beavers

- Too many beavers! They have done too much damage.
- DCR, MassWildlife and other state agencies should work to get fur trapping back. Since Question 1, the beavers are making a mess of this area and at a cost to the taxpayers.
- Did you know: that in the month of March when the ice is ready to give way in the rivers, there are beaver pellets piled up approximately 10" to 1' high at the edges of the beaver dams ready to float down into the Ware River. STOCKED trout bellies are full of these beaver pellets in the spring.
- The Ware River is being RUINED by the Beavers- you take wonderful care of the land in the watershed- it is now time to take care of the water! the fish habitat for cold water species is being ruined by the beavers. The quality is poor. Temperatures are high! Fish habitat is being destroyed. Please declare the Ware Watershed a beaver free zone and eradicate them. Then you can take more & better quality water when needed.
- Control beaver population that is destroying trees, river banks, and beauty of land- they also pollute the waters, land and could be a health hazard.

Positive Feedback

- WELL DONE. We are lucky to live in this beautiful area. THANK YOU.
- We are very grateful for all the beautiful land and trails to enjoy. As much land should be protected as possible, we can not get it back.
Thank you to all who serve!
- A favorite swimming hole was at the base of the falls. Born and brought up in Hubbardston.
- We value the protection of this land for many reasons, including aesthetics, environmental health, wildlife protection, and recreation!
- Thank You :)
- Thank you for taking the time to prepare, distribute, and compile this survey.
- Doing good. Keep managing the forest people do not know what they have!
- I appreciate work that DCR is doing. I use the Mass Central rail trail all the time and enjoy it.
- Protection of the fragile water supply is critical! Congratulations and thank you for all your work.
- Quabbin has too many regulations. For that reason I hardly go there!
Keep up the good work! Keep the regulations to a minimum.
I really enjoy this land- you manage it well! Snowmobiles help keep hiking accessible for walkers & skiers- let them keep going!
- I value access to the watershed area.

Appendix G – On-Site Interview

On-Site Interview Results

36 total interviews in June/July 2009

Average Age of Respondent: 50 years

Age range: 17-70 years

Times of Surveys

8 Weekdays (not Friday): 8am-4:30pm

1 Friday including evening: 11am-7:30pm

Survey Site Location:

Comet Pond 50% (18)

Long Pond 42% (15)

Old Coldbrook Road (Parking Lot) 3% (1)

Mass Central Rail Trail 5% (2)

Size of Group

1: 28% (10)

2: 47% (17)

3: 14% (5)

4: 8% (3)

5+: 3% (1)

Recreational Activity at time of interview

Shore fishing: 28.6% (10)

Boating- electric motor: 17% (6)

Boating- outboard motor 8.5% (3)

Kayak- 28.6 (10)

Canoe – 8.6% (3)

Bike – 5.7% (2)

Viewing- 2.9% (1)

Where do you live:

Where do you live?

Rutland	11%	4
Gardner	11%	4
Holden	11%	4
Barre	8%	3
Worcester	8%	3
Other	50%	18
		36

On-Site Interview: Comments

Boating

- Cannot justify limiting motorboats due to water quality; Should stop salting 122 and move the salt shed right next to the Long Pond first. Salination is a big, overlooked problem.
- Speedboats should be allowed to be out on Long Pond after 6pm because it is still light out, and technically someone could be there until midnight if he/she was fishing.
- Did not know about Long Pond permits, or see signage indicating permits are needed for above 25HP boats.
- Wants restrictions or citations for private landowners using speedboats irresponsibly.
- Didn't know about the increased HP (from 20 to 25) at Comet Pond. Caught a big rainbow trout fly fishing.
- All boaters should have to take safety course to get a permit.
More enforcement!
- Should allow Evinrude E-TEC 2 stroke 40-60 hp outboard engines; they are cleaner than 4-stroke motors! Lake Mead only allows E-Tec motors.

- Would like a light near the boat ramp, (where one used to be), says hard to see the ramp at night without it. Night fish often at Comet Pond. Would like to prohibit kayaks and canoes from using the boat ramp to launch
- Like the stocked trout, Dad and two adult sons shore fish off of point
- Likes to read while kayaking, Comet Pond is relaxing when no speedboats are on it.
- Would like a ban of high HP boats (above 25hp) on Long Pond. Wants Long Pond stocked.
- Did not know about available access points within the Ware River Watershed- says limited signage/info for kayak and canoe access, even on the website. Not sure when gates open/closed during different seasons. Is member of North Shore Paddlers.
- Disagree with speed boats on Long Pond.
Too much broken glass along Long Pond shoreline. Say they've used the rope swings along the shore.
- Does not want speedboats on Long Pond- are disrespectful to kayak/canoes and fishing boats. Shore fishes at Comet Pond, Long Pond, Whitehall Pond, and Quabbin Reservoir.
- Gives new boat ramp a 'thumbs up.' Uses a whaler at the Cape.
- Did not know about Long Pond permits for above 25HP boats: just thought they weren't allowed at all. Thinks MA has the best state-owned ramps. Would like now restriction on motors in Comet Pond, but instead enforce a speed limit. Have an outboard motor to, but only use trolling motor in Comet and Long Ponds
- Goes fishing in his kayak.

Other

- Believes policies are there for a reason.
- Did not know rail trail cut off near Moulton Pond.
- Uses WRW for recreation since 1986, for 2-5 times per week. Are members of NEMBA and 7-Hills Wheelmen, and do trail care work. Spent 80-100 hours cleaning storm damage from trails. Use both MassCentral and WR rail trail. Attended an advisory committee meeting in Hubbardston 3 years ago.

- Believes should be more info/warning to winter recreational users about speeding snowmobiles.
- Logging up near Bloodswamp cause muddy trails, and slash cut off some trails.
- Neutral on policies. Would like to have stocked trout.
- Uses Ware River Rail Trail. Extremely disagrees with unauthorized trail marking/trail clearing, collecting/metal detecting, and possessing alcohol.
- Says is an abutter, but did not get a survey. Agrees to litter policy. Did not know about dog policy- thought they weren't allowed anywhere in Ware River Watershed

On-Site Interview: Conflicts

Interview: Do you experience any recreational conflicts with other users while on DCR-Watershed lands? If so, please describe.

Other

- One guy at Long Pond parking lots litters and throws cigarette butts out his window.
- Thinks horses are a big problem. Leave messes on the rail trails, where they are not supposed to be, use wet trails, deposit bacteria in the watershed.
- Hunters also get "growly" and walk with guns on the rail trail. Snowmobilers also speed on the trails, especially Dike 3 and Pine Plains Rd, have almost been hit by speeding snowmobiles while XC skiing.

Boating

- Boaters power loading on ramp ("ski-jockeys"). Speedboaters are disrespectful and go too fast- Long Pond is too small for them. Snowmobilers and ATVs riding on the ice. Not enough enforcement at the boat ramp. Speedboats on pond before and after legal hours. Speedboaters aren't as concerned about transporting aquatic vegetation/wildlife as boat fishermen are, and do not clean their boats.
- Has seen some funny business around shorelines of Long Pond.
- Wakes from speedboats. Snowmobiles on ice when ice fishing - log cabin landowner.
- Problems with private landowners around Comet Pond using speedboats and being disrespectful to boat fishermen and kayakers. Says one fisherman got knocked out of boat because of speedboat wakes, and almost tipped a couple of kayaks over. Has seen landowners' children driving the speedboats too close to kayakers/canoers.
- Person peals out with their boat off of the ramp and scares the fish. Abutters swimming and being loud.
- Kayakers dock at the boat ramp and "dilly-dally," instead of using the other side of the floating dock.
- Motorized boats moor up on sand bar where people shore fish. Says on weekends, he sees up to 6 boats moored on the sand at one time. Would like a sign on the beach facing the water stating "no boats on sand."
- Speed boats create wakes for shore fishermen.
- Speed boats creating wakes.
- Thinks other users have been very courteous, but has had issues with speedboats pulling tubes.
- Speed boats pass to closely and create wakes.