

MASSWILDLIFE



WORKING FOR ALL WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM REVIEW

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[MASS.GOV/HABITAT](https://mass.gov/habitat)

MassWildlife Habitat Program

- Our mission and agency partners
- Who we are
- What is habitat?
- Why is our work important?
- What we do
- Recent paper
- Conclusion



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MassWildlife protects, restores, and manages habitat for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy.

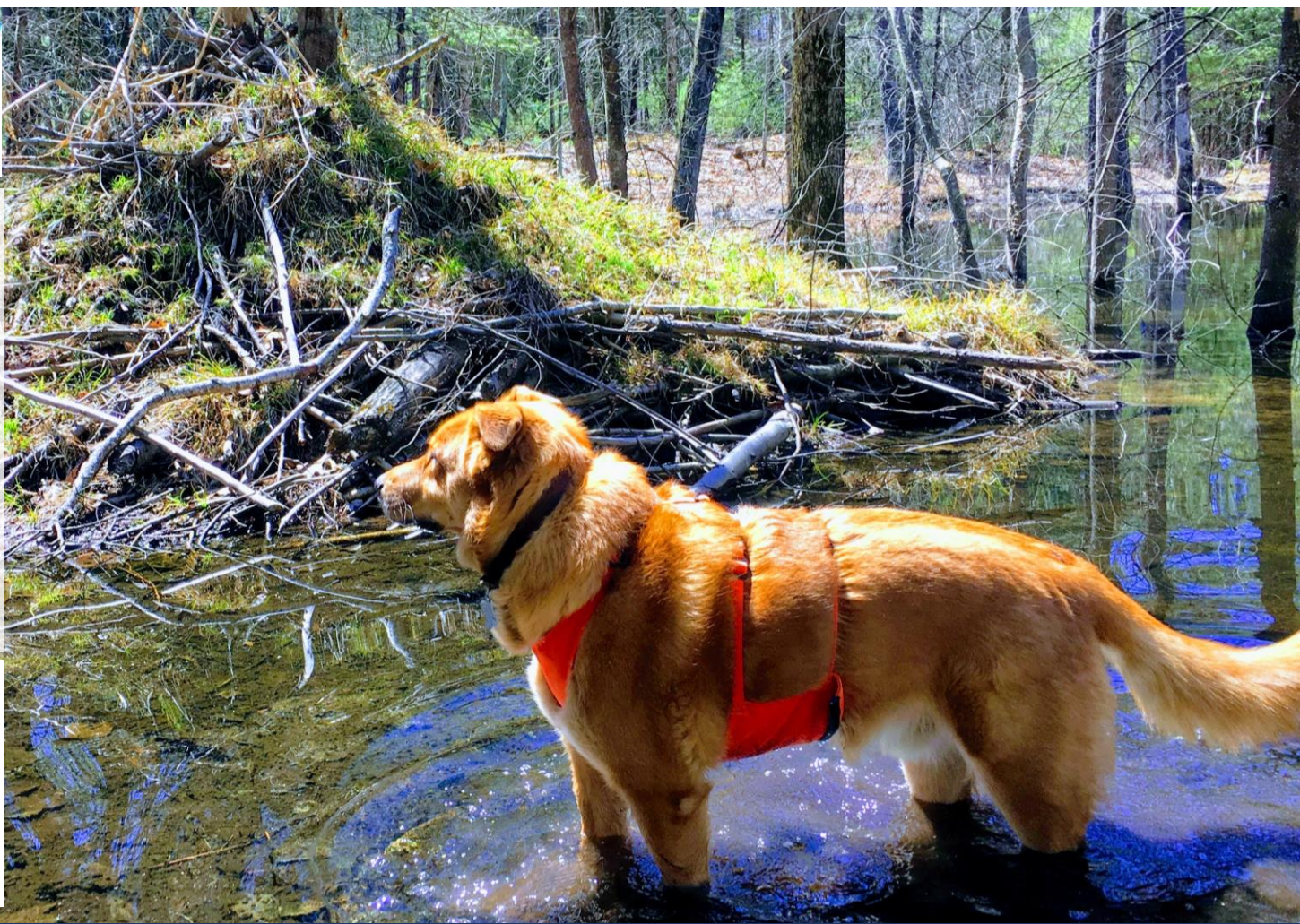
MassWildlife's Habitat Program works to conserve all wildlife in Massachusetts through:

- Habitat restoration and management on WMAs
- Technical and financial assistance to conservation partners
- SWAP, Biomap, NEHTC
- Land protection
- Climate resilience and adaptation



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Montague Plains WMA, Montague, Mass. Beaver lodge in spring-fed stream (Hawthorne)

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Habitat = Food + Water + Shelter + Space

Resources a species needs to survive and reproduce, e.g., “Moose Habitat”

Habitat = Communities of Plants and Animals

Species occur together in specific environmental conditions, e.g. “Forested Swamps”



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mass.gov/biomap

Provide conservation partners with recommendations and resources to:

- Promote habitat resilience
- Restore ecological processes
- Prepare for, recover from, and adapt to climate change



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- Many species rely on dynamic habitats
- Human occupation restricts natural disturbance patterns
- This restriction interrupts ecosystem processes required by these species
- We use human disturbance to restore those processes



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Species of Greatest Conservation Need





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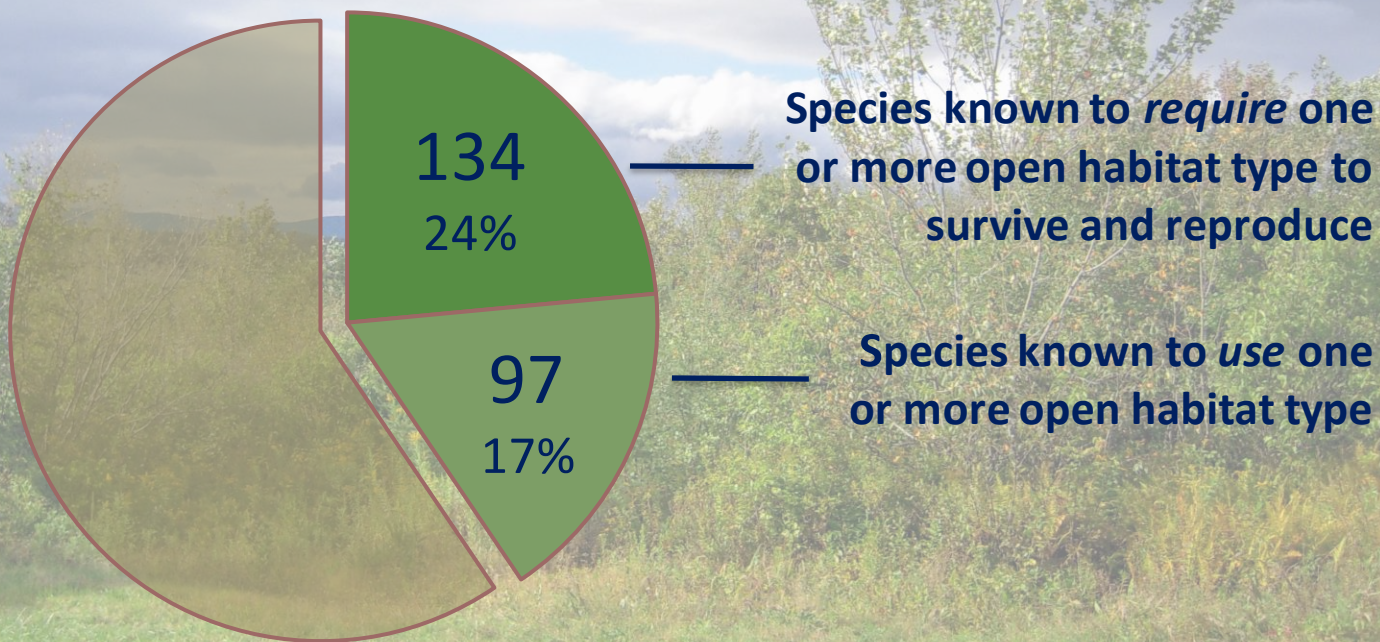
MassWildlife's habitat management and restoration projects directly benefit a diversity of wildlife and plants, including rare, declining, and common species that rely on open habitats—grassland, shrubland, and young forests.



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>40% of rare and declining species need or use open habitats





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Mature forest is also a MassWildlife priority, and most of the land under MassWildlife stewardship is passively managed as mature and maturing forest.





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Help conservation partners restore and manage habitat with

- Resource Center, Site Walks, Seminars
- Technical Assistance
- Financial Assistance
 - Habitat Management Grant Program



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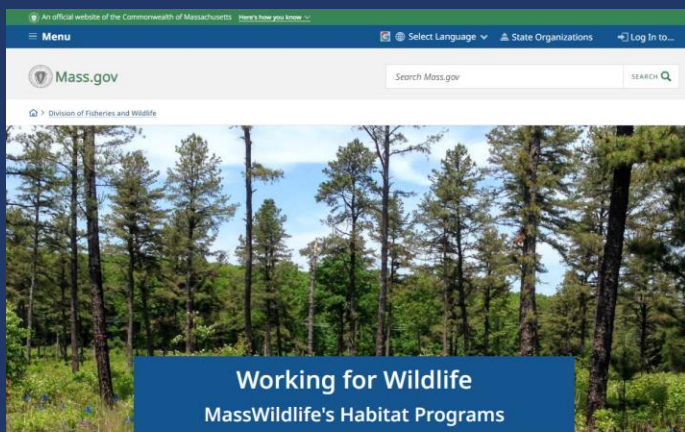
A photograph of two people wearing bright orange hats, standing in a field with autumn foliage in the background. The person on the left is wearing a purple jacket and using binoculars. The person on the right is wearing a dark jacket and using a large telephoto camera. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the image.

Habitat management and restoration for wildlife conservation enhances wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, birding, nature photography, and other wildlife-based outdoor recreation.



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MassWildlife restores and manages critical habitats to help conserve the diversity of wildlife and plant communities in the Commonwealth for generations to come.

Learn how our work is helping wildlife thrive



Featured habitat projects +

MassWildlife's team of Foresters, Wildlife Biologists, and Restoration Ecologists use a variety of tools to create, restore, and maintain a diversity of open habitat types that provide homes for rare and common wildlife. Projects are carried out in all parts of the Commonwealth.

Habitat goals +



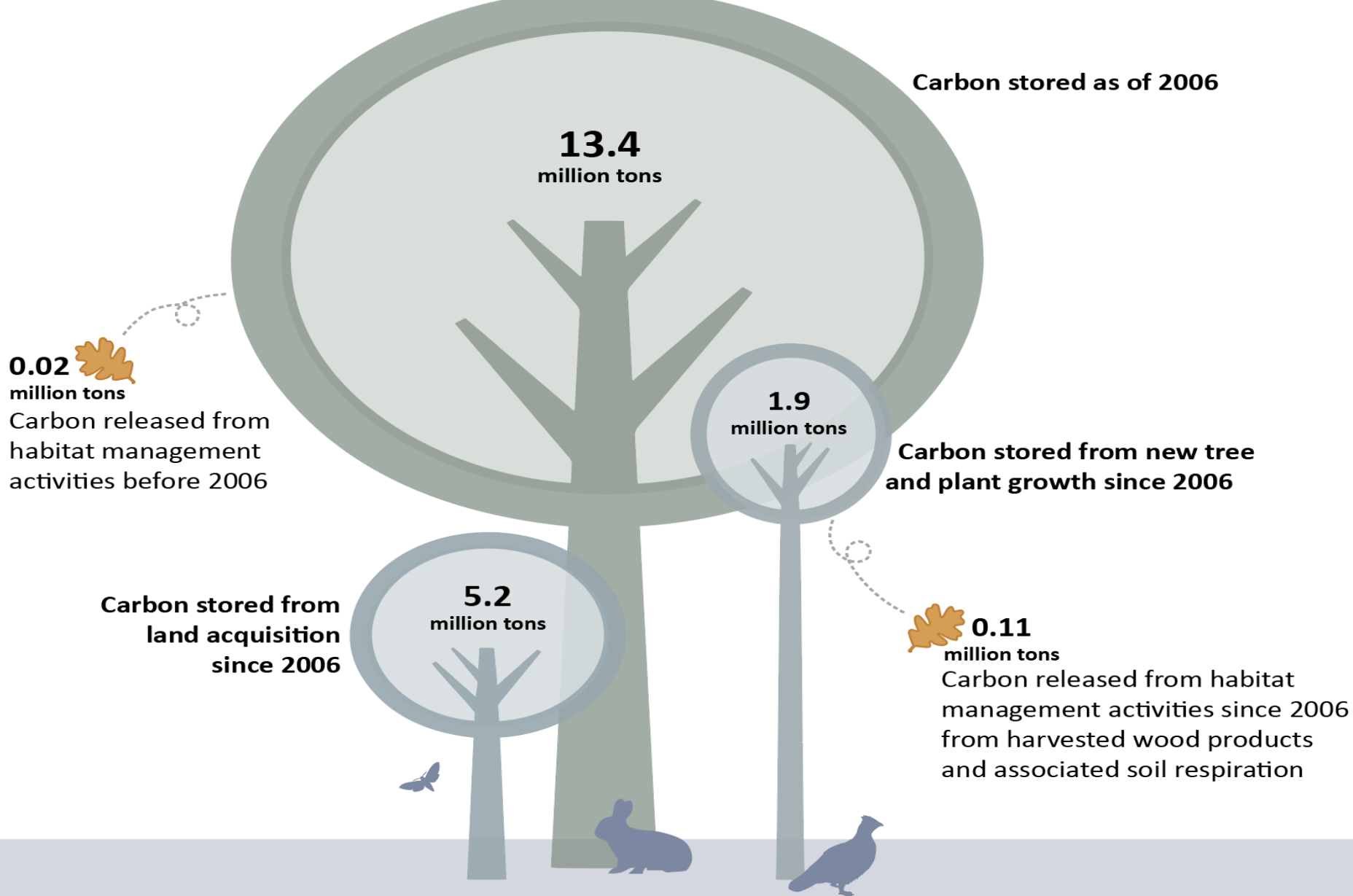
MassWildlife's management activities focus on declining habitat types that provide homes for vulnerable wildlife. Habitat projects maintain open grasslands, dense shrublands, vibrant young forest, and dedicated forest reserves on MassWildlife lands.

Habitat Program in the news +



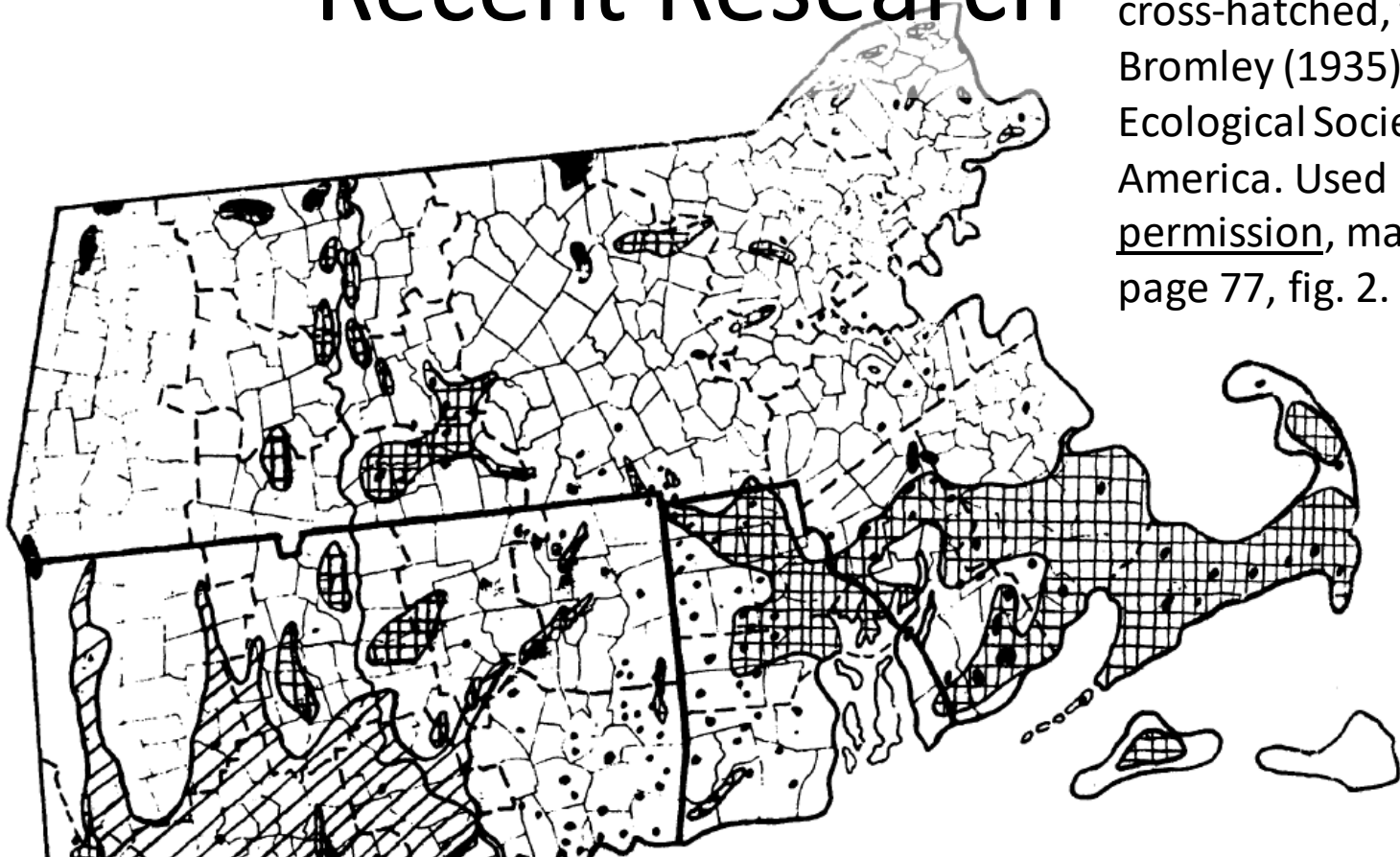
MassWildlife has been creating and restoring wildlife habitat for decades. Click the link to see some of the many articles and news stories about the program.





Recent Research

Pitch pine plains shown cross-hatched, from Bromley (1935) © Ecological Society of America. Used with permission, map on page 77, fig. 2.



Kellett MJ, Maloof JE, Masino SA, Frelich LE, Faison EK, Brosi SL and Foster DR (2023) Forest-clearing to create early-successional habitats: Questionable benefits, significant costs. *Front. For. Glob. Change* 5:1073677.





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The science is clear.
Land protection alone is not enough for long-term conservation. To protect biodiversity in the face of climate change, we must take active steps to restore and manage the unique habitats that Massachusetts offers.



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Questions?

Leyden WMA, Leyden, Mass. View of rain on Mt. Monadnock