



Dear Potential Researcher:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recognizes research as an invaluable and necessary component of public land management. DCR encourages collaboration with educational institutions, academic and professional researchers, citizen scientists, and environmental organizations proposing research activities consistent with our mission. Coordination is necessary to avoid or mitigate impacts to ecologically or culturally sensitive areas, to maximize the benefits and usefulness of research to the Agency, to avoid conflict between research activities and public use of DCR properties, and to prevent inadvertent interference with DCR management activities. DCR's Office of Natural Resources (ONR) administers the agency's Research Access Permitting Program.

All individuals or entities planning to use DCR lands for research must first complete and submit a [Research Access Permit Application](#). Applications must be submitted **at least 30 days prior to the proposed start date**. Once submitted applications are reviewed by DCR local, regional, ONR, and senior staff. A site visit with the applicant may be necessary to clarify details and/or assess potential ecological or operational impacts. Determinations may be delayed if additional reviews or approvals are necessary by other local, state, or federal agencies.

Research Access Permits are granted for a maximum period of one calendar year. Each year, permittees must submit an annual report which must include data collected, and a narrative summary of work completed during the year. This annual report must be submitted ***prior to requesting permit renewal***. It is the researcher's responsibility to submit renewal requests ***and*** to notify ONR of project completion. Renewal requests are made by submitting a new Research Permit Application and selecting Renewal Application at the top right of the application cover sheet. Renewal Applications may contain the same general content as previous applications. Renewal Applications must detail any changes to methods, scope, and/or study locations. Renewal Applications must be submitted ***at least 30 days prior to the proposed start date***.

Data collected, annual and final reports, including theses or dissertations, research manuscripts, journal articles, publications, etc. shall be sent, when available, to the ONR. Upon completion of a project, it is the permittees responsibility to immediately remove all research apparatus, restore study sites to their previous condition, ***and*** return any keys.

We look forward to forming and growing relationships to increase our understanding of our common wealth of natural resources.

Sincerely,

Eric Seaborn //s//
Director of Natural Resources

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Jim Montgomery, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION
Bureau of Resource Protection
Office of Natural Resources

RESEARCH ACCESS PERMIT APPLICATION
Instructions to Applicants

- Make sure your application is complete and signed prior to submitting
- Incomplete or unclear applications may be dismissed or result in processing delays
- Study locations must be clearly identified
- Methods must be clearly described
- All proposed equipment, structures, and/or field markers must be detailed and described
- Research Access Permits are issued for a maximum time period of 1 calendar year
- Annual reports must be submitted prior to requesting renewal
- Renewals are subject to review and approval is conditional
- It is the responsibility of the applicant or permittee to obtain all applicable and required local, state, and federal permits

**If research will include Quabbin, Wachusett, and/or Ware Watershed lands, it is the applicant's responsibility to complete and submit the appropriate [Watershed Research Permit Application\(s\)](#) to the Division of Water Supply and Protection.*