



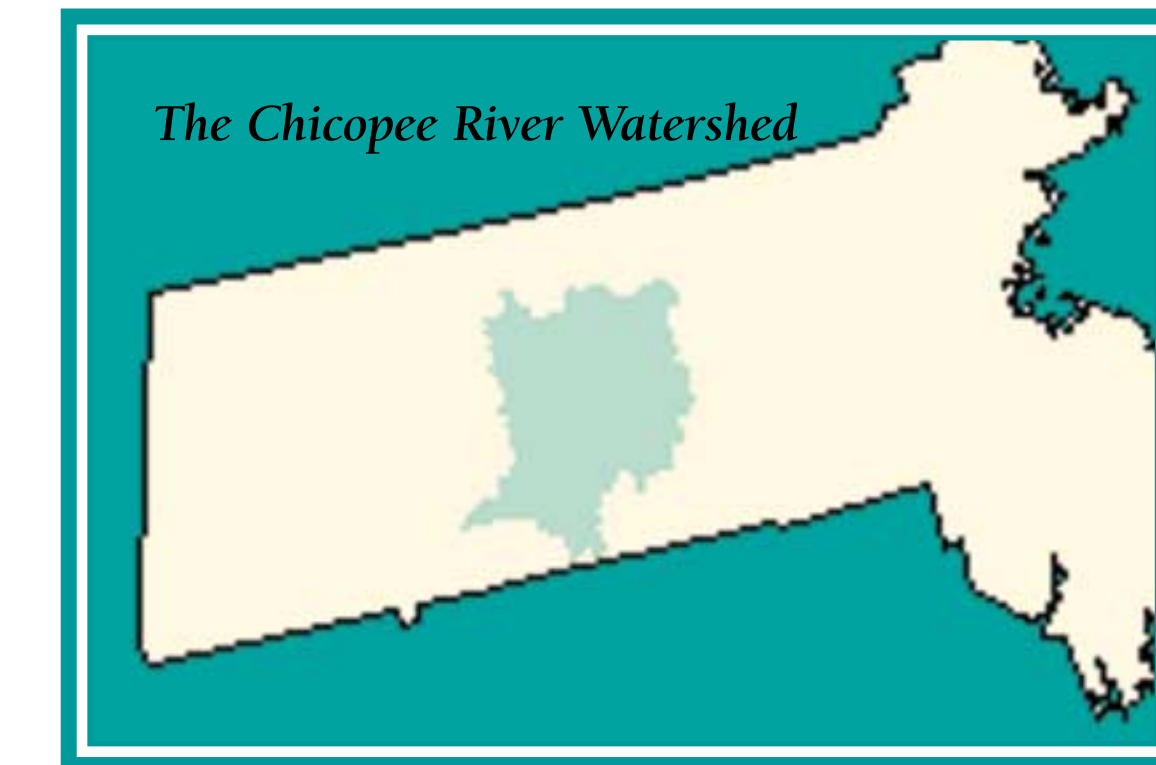
# A C L O S E R V I E W O F W A C H U S E T T M O U N T A I N

LOCATED TO THE NORTH, **The Nashua River Watershed** INCLUDES THE TOWNS OF ASHBURNHAM, AYER, CLINTON, FITCHBURG, LEOMINSTER, AND NASHUA, NH.



## Where Two Great Watersheds Meet

At the highest-altitude point in the region, The Wachusett Mountain summit is the “divide” or boundary, between two major watersheds; the Nashua River to the north and the Chicopee River watershed to the south and west.



LOCATED TO THE SOUTH AND WEST, **The Chicopee River Watershed** INCLUDES THE TOWNS OF BELCHERTOWN, CHICOPEE, HUBBARDSTON, OAKHAM, PHILPSTON, AND RUTLAND.

### Wachusett Ski Area's Place in the Watershed

Our ski trails are part of the Nashua River watershed. Rain and snowmelt not used by plants or animals, that does not evaporate or seep into the ground, flows from the trails into channels which drain through a series of ponds and wetlands to Wachusett Lake or Wyman Pond. The water eventually flows to the Nashua River and finally the Atlantic Ocean. On the way the water is used for many different purposes by many communities, businesses, farms and private residents while providing habitat for countless plant and animal species.



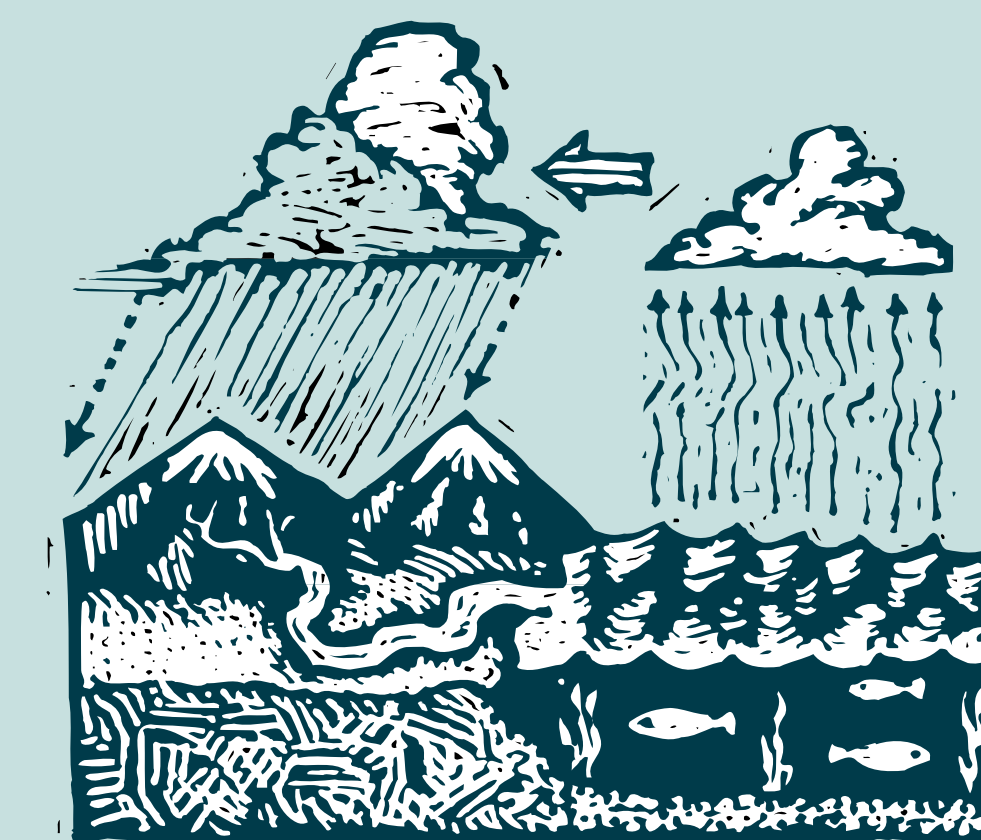
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN IS IMPORTANT TO BOTH THE NASHUA AND CHICOPPE WATERSHEDS. WATER FROM THE MOUNTAIN FEEDS THE MANY PONDS IN THE AREA.

### Why Protect the Watershed

Watershed protection is necessary for habitat protection, economic benefits, recreation, flood prevention, scenery and the overall quality of life. Wachusett Mountain Ski area has designed a number of safeguards to help protect the watershed. Trails are maintained in the off-season with a vegetated cover and water bars are located at regular intervals to prevent erosion. The series of ponds that you see from the base to the summit including the Snowmaking pond, Mirror pond, Sediment pond and Bullock pond were designed to detain flows from the ski area which promotes a natural cleaning process to insure the quality of water leaving the ski area.

## What is a Watershed?

**Water is an essential element for all forms of life!** As it falls from the sky as rain, snow or ice, this water continuously flows to the lowest point – through the ground, across fields, streets, forests, backyards – it travels to a stream, river, lake and the ocean. The land that the water flows across and through is called a **watershed**. The watershed region around Wachusett Mountain includes Wachusett Lake, which is located at the base of the mountain and is a source of drinking water for the city of Fitchburg and surrounding areas.



Water running off the mountain is part of the essential natural phenomenon known as the **WATER CYCLE**. The water flows thru streams and rivers down to the sea. There, evaporation forms clouds, then rain, completing the cycle.

Many free interpretive programs are offered at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. For information about them or our about guided tours, please call us at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation (978) 464-2987.

