

Science on the Slopes

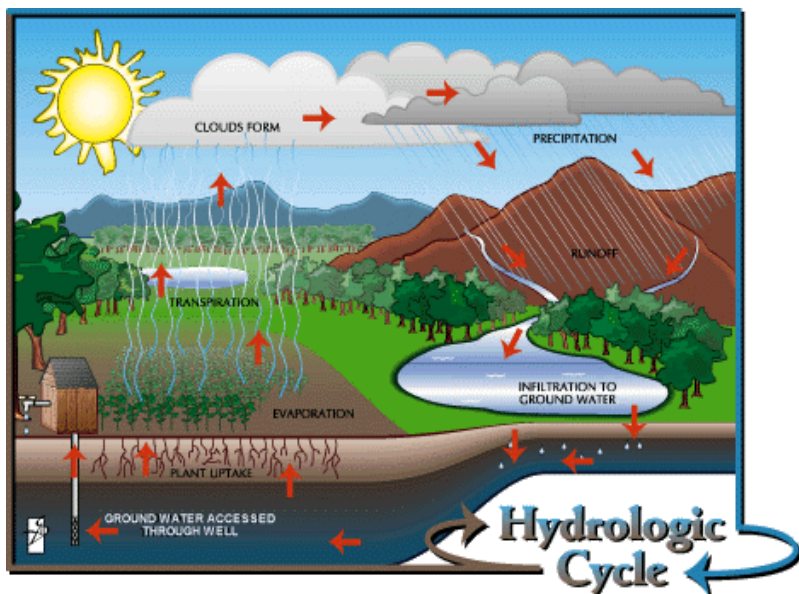
Environmental Education & Wellness Program



Earth Science

Wachusett Mountain's Water Cycle

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area has partnered with nature and designed its own water cycle. Rain water and melting snow run down the mountain and flow into the ski area's "snow pond" located beside the base lodge. The pond was designed to catch the mountain's runoff and store it until the recycled water can be used again to make snow during the winter. As spring approaches the natural and human made snow on the ski mountain melts, sending water back to the snow pond to complete Wachusett Mountain's self contained, miniature water cycle.



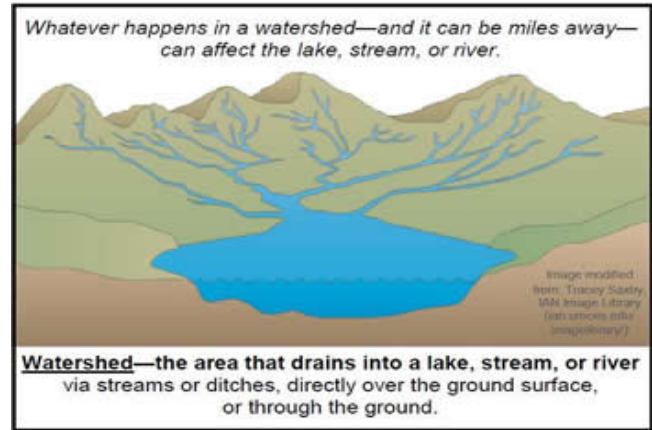
Source: EPA

[Six components of the Water Cycle](#)

Wachusett Mountain's miniature water cycle is located in the middle of several carefully managed watershed areas. The closest is [Wachusett Watershed](#) which stores about 65 billion gallons of water and is used as drinking water for the greater Boston area. Return to the main menu's [Cultural History link](#) to learn about Wachusett Watershed's history and the building of the Wachusett Dam, which is still the largest hand built gravity-driven dam in the world!

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is **the land** that water flows **across or through** on its way to a stream, lake, wetland or other body of water. All the hills in the same area send water down to the same body of water. This is similar to how water flows in the shower. Water can be splashed on the walls or curtain and edges of the tub but eventually all of the water will go down the one drain pipe.



<https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed>