

Wachusett Mountain Brings Snowmaking and Grooming To New Heights!

PRINCETON, Ma. – Already know for its impeccable snowmaking and grooming, Wachusett Mountain Ski Area is bringing both to new heights for the 2009-2010 season. In its ongoing initiative to create practically “instant” snow, Wachusett’s award-winning Mountain Operations Department has made two major new steps this year with improved snowmaking and the addition of a “Winch” cat to its grooming fleet.

Wachusett added 42 new HKD tower-mounted snow guns to its already impressive arsenal. These new guns will replace the ones on the **Conifer Connection trail** from the summit. Conifer is traditionally Wachusett’s first trail to open each season and the new guns will permit more snow to be made early in the season; utilizing lower amounts of energy and allowing for improved productivity at higher temperatures. For this winter, Wachusett has also replaced the snowmaking pipeline on the **Upper Smith Walton trail**. The new pipe will provide for improved snow output on the steep pitch of the popular advanced trail.



The snowmaking advances are coupled with Wachusett’s acquisition of a new “Winch” cat (manufactured by Piston Bully) to significantly improve the mountain’s grooming capability in three critical areas. Best known for enhancing grooming on steep pitches, “winch” cats also provide more efficient grooming by better utilizing natural or machine-made snow already in place on the trail. The “winch” cat cable, which can extend up to 1,000 meters, connects to “winch” hooks (known as “pick points”) placed at pivotal locations on the mountain. This season, Wachusett added 2 hooks on **Upper Smith Walton**, 1 hook on **Upper 10th Mountain** and 2 hooks on **Upper Conifer Connection**.

“Those will allow for the grooming machine operator to better utilize snow from our snowmaking guns to strategically move to the most effective areas on those popular trails,” said Scott Goodnow, Wachusett’s vehicle maintenance manager. “The ‘winch’ allows one pass of the grooming machine to push greater quantities of snow with less wear and tear on the vehicle and the snow surface! We take great pride in our top-notch grooming and this machine will bring it to an even higher level!”

Wachusett is so confident of its snowmaking and grooming 1-2 punch, it offers one of New England’s original snow conditions guarantees. The ski area’s “Unconditional Conditions Guarantee” provides skiers or riders with a return visit on another day if they are unhappy with conditions for any reason within their first hour. For details, visit www.wachusett.com.

