

From: [Elizabeth Townsend](#)
To: [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)
Subject: Balance Conservation and Visitation in Master Plan
Date: Friday, August 12, 2022 10:37:28 AM

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Dear Commissioners, Mount Washington Commission,

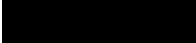
The development of the Mount Washington Summit Master Plan is critical moment to determine the future of a beloved place. I urge the Commission to give weight to plans that protect Mt. Washington's fragile alpine environment and its importance to research.

The summit is already heavily visited, and that visitation is taking a toll on the alpine species, and on the visitor experience. Conflicting uses can lead to both safety issues and tensions, a situation I witnessed while hiking there last August.

A plan for improving the physical accessibility of summit facilities should ensure that the visitor experience is enhanced for all users. Any summit improvements should be informed by a comprehensive set of environmental studies to understand potential impacts on Mt Washington's alpine ecology.

The Master Plan must seek a sustainable future on Mount Washington that includes achieving net zero emissions and minimizing waste, noise and light pollution. It must also take into account the scenic impacts of current and future operations.

Finally, the draft Master Plan outlines additional studies, site plans, and operational plans that will need to be developed. These plans and their implementation should be done in close coordination with the United States Forest Service and other stakeholders to ensure the greatest degree of planning across a larger, integrated landscape.

Regards,
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