

From: [Timothy Johnson](#)
To: [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)
Subject: Balance Conservation and Visitation in Master Plan
Date: Friday, August 12, 2022 10:48:38 AM

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Dear Commissioners, Mount Washington Commission,

Dear commission members,

Wilderness must be wild. All construction is, necessarily, destruction of wild habitat and landscape. As you continue to plan and develop the sensitive, unique habitats and landscapes on Mount Washington, please keep at the front of your minds that there is an extraordinary and insurmountable contradiction at the heart of your enterprise. What makes the white mountain summits so special, and attractive, is their pristine, wild character. As Thoreau remarked about khatadin, they are inhuman places where we may visit but not reside; they are not for us. While aiming to meet the needs for the demand for access and equity, you must realize that the path to reach those goals destroys the thing that creates the demand. Making the summit accessible and comfortable to humans, with roads and pavement and signs and buildings, is the antithesis and the death of the very environment and landscape and experience that people are seeking when they travel to the white mountains, and Washington in particular. Your aim in crafting a new vision for the summit should be to deconstruct and minimize the human footprint/impact as possible. The foundation of wilderness ethics, of natural ethics, is LEAVE NO TRACE. Much like we are deconstructing many old dams to free waterways in New England for the betterment of human and natural life together, perhaps you may consider a de-development model for the rare alpine wilderness of our region.

Regards,
Timothy Johnson

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