

From: [Paul Doscher](#)
To: [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)
Subject: Comments on Mt Washington Master Plan
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Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Master Plan for Mt. Washington State Park.

As a former member of the State Parks Advisory Council, I have had a long history of engagement with the State Parks. I have been highly encouraged by the significant progress that has been made over the past decade, under the leadership of Director Phil Bryce, in addressing long standing capital and maintenance needs and creating a more efficient and effective program of park management.

The draft Mt. Washington Plan reflects a thoughtful and realistic analysis of the challenges faced at the summit and the recommendations are sound. The key will be finding the resources to implement the plan and bring the facilities up to the standard they need to achieve in order to provide for both a quality experience for visitors and to ensure the protection of the fragile alpine environment.

While it is not within the purview of the State Park plan, the matter of a proposed hotel development within the narrow strip of land owned by the Cog Railway raises some questions. Should that development take place, will the additional visitors that are provided access to the Park and surrounding National Forest lands on the summit pose new impacts to the resource and ecological protection goals of the Park? How will such a development affect the overall level of public use at the Park and will such a development result in impacts that will diminish the visitor experience?


The Master Plan clearly delineates the important improvements and repairs that are needed within the Park, but does not address the relationship of the park to the adjoining National Forest lands and those of the Auto Road and Cog. It seems to me that any plans for improvements or activities within the Park are closely related to what happens surrounding the Park, and the Plan should at least acknowledge these and suggest what criteria Parks will use to determine its reaction to proposals and plans on the surrounding land.

Sincerely,

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