

From: [walter.north](#)
To: [DNCR: Mt. Washington Comments](#)
Subject: Mt. Washington Master Plan
Date: Friday, August 12, 2022 10:38:37 AM

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Dear Commissioners, Mount Washington Commission,

Dear Commissioners,

(Please disregard an earlier message which was sent as a tech error.)

I want to thank you for undertaking such a comprehensive and thorough review of conditions on Mt. Washington. Your consideration of measures to ensure that this incredibly important natural resource is managed appropriately going forward is a very good thing.

The complex dimensions of the problem set you face are magnified by the ongoing consequences of climate change, the pressure for increased human access to an extremely fragile ecosystem, legacy human engineered damage, research priorities and economic interests. Those aspects seem to be woven into the current draft but not always with the greatest clarity about metrics for assessing some of the tradeoffs that arise or stating goals (ie. tolerable numbers of visitors via the three major access channels, a management structure for controlling that number which ensures that not just the wealthy can access the summit, sanitary standards for waste management, a net zero carbon footprint, outlining existing and planned ecological systems monitoring and restoration efforts/mitigation, etc).

Ideally, 'do no harm' would be the standard across the board but that may be impossible to achieve. Nonetheless, a least harm strategy with mitigation is doable and worth pursuing. I hope more specificity around costs (financial and ecological) and possible cures/fixes of such a strategy can be more robustly demonstrated in your final product.

As is clearly reflected in your draft, Mt. Washington is an amazing place and an extraordinarily special ecological niche located in our region. Your commitment to protecting that treasure is much appreciated.

Thank you.

Walter North

Regards,
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