

Open letter to the Executive Council

Executive Council,

did Councilor Kenney ask any questions or do any research before commenting on the proposed "Lizzie's Station"* in the Littleton Courier (July 20)?

He repeated without question the description of the project as "tuck(ed) under the east facing side of the summit with "little visual impact on the Presidential Range".

The proposed project would not be "tucked under" anything. Even with the camouflage suggested by Wayne Presby, it would increase in the already substantial visual impact of the Cog Railway, as shown in the visual simulation below, provided by the applicant:



Wayne Presby proposes to build two new 500' sections of track and site nine 40' cars on each section, but the simulation shows only six, so the one below may be more realistic:



Since the Executive Council can ask the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and Wayne Presby questions about this project, and have them answered, please request:

- A third-party Environmental Impact Statement for this proposed project.

- Visual impact simulations of the proposed project from Mt. Adams, Mt. Madison, Mt. Jefferson, Nelson Crag Trail, the Great Gulf /Gulfside/Crawford Trails, other trails from which it would be visible, the Auto Road, the Cog, and from several locations on the summit.
- The project and construction plans and materials, which would show the construction and project footprints, subsurface construction, materials, additions to the Cog infrastructure (sewage pipe and fiber cable), and other unknowns.
- The carbon footprint of the proposed project construction and operation.

Please ask:

- Why are Wayne Presby, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Governor Sununu and the Executive Council proposing/supporting construction within prime mating and breeding habitat of the American pipit, which only breeds on the summits of Mt. Katahdin and Mt. Washington, in the east?
- How could Wayne Presby’s plans to “draw in more tourism” “spread out the congestion at the summit” and "reduce congestion...within the summit circle” as he claims?
- What happens if a proposal for two story rail cars is submitted? This could double the occupancy without any new construction, and with what the developers would claim is a small increased visual impact.
- Why is the proposed destruction of a large area of the rare and endangered Alpine Zone acceptable to Wayne Presby, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the Executive Council and Governor Sununu?
- Why, given that we are well into the sixth great extinction and headed to four degrees warming, largely due to our refusal to abandon our ‘business as usual’ behavior, was this 14 million dollar project proposed by Wayne Presby and endorsed by state agencies?

The claimed benefits of this proposal could be brought about without any environmental damage to the Alpine Zone:

Facilitating “future discussions and planning on how to best utilize the limited available park space inside the Summit Circle,” promoting “the safe, orderly, and efficient management of the limited park space inside the Summit Circle” and moving “facilities off the Summit in keeping with the Master Plan developed in 1971” could be accomplished by the Cog signing over its rights for expansion within the Summit Circle to the the state, or other entity, with an easement preventing development.

Significantly reducing “congestion and development pressure within the Summit Circle” could be accomplished by the Cog Railway limiting the number of people it brings to the summit.

Providing “critical additional infrastructure to visitors (restrooms/water/sewage capacity & fiber)” would be unnecessary if the number of visitors was limited, which would also reduce “concerns about the number of visitors to the summit.”

The project of restoring the degraded culture and environment of Mt. Washington State Park begins with not destroying 14,000+ square feet of alpine zone to provide a claimed “new and innovative visitor experience” for those that can pay the “hefty fees”.

Kris Pastoriza
Easton, N.H.

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July 29, 2022

* Has anyone asked the Bourne family how they feel about this appropriation of their name?

Resources:

Keep the Whites Wild: <https://www.KeepTheWhitesWild.org/>

Cog presentation on the Pike’s Peak: experience:

<https://www.nhstateparks.org/getmedia/15ca37c5-98b6-409e-be52-68254df19d39/MWC-Pike-s-Peak-Presentation-Final.pdf>

Cog presentation on “Lizzie’s Station”*:

https://www.nhstateparks.org/getmedia/5b590344-064f-448b-baf0-8508e41df6f4/MWC_Cog-Presentation_3-4-22.pdf

June 10, 2022 Mount Washington Commission meeting: <https://youtu.be/>

Comments or questions about the “Lizzie’s Station” * proposal can be sent to;

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Commissioner Sarah Stewart:
sarah.stewart@dncr.nh.gov and/or Ryan Presby: ryan@thecog.com

White Mountain National Forest Supervisor Derek Ibarguen: Derek.Ibarguen@usda.gov

The Coos County Planning Board does not provide e-mail contacts on its site:

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