

From: [Richard Knox](#)
To: [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)
Cc: [Richard Knox](#); [Jean Knox](#)
Subject: Time to reassess and plan to protect Mt. Washington
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 10:51:44 AM

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Dear Mount Washington Commission members:

We are writing to express our strong belief that now is the time for the Commission (or the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, which you advise) to authorize a comprehensive, thorough-going and independent assessment of the current and future impact of tourism on Mount Washington.

This assessment must serve as the basis for the development of a master plan for the summit and all the routes to the summit in light of the ecology of this unique place. The master plan should take into account the impact of climate change and how science-based evidence must inform future uses of the mountain.

While this overdue process proceeds, there should be a total moratorium on expansion of existing facilities and the development of new uses, including the proposed “Lizzie’s Station” project. We want to be clear that our position is not based on the “Lizzie” proposal alone; that proposal, however, presents a compelling case for a comprehensive review of the vastly increased pressures on this fragile terrain since the long-outdated Master Plan of 1970.

We have hiked and driven up Mount Washington over the past decades, so we appreciate first-hand what a precious resource it is, and how deserving this mountain is of our best stewardship. This summer we rode the Cog Railway with our 6-year-old grandson. We were struck by how dramatically the pressures on the Washington summit have increased — in parallel with tourist pressures on other national parks, such as Yellowstone and Yosemite.

We are certainly not in favor of closing off public access, but it is clear that thoughtful management is urgently needed. We agree with Commissioner Wemyss’s recent conclusion that the proposed analysis and updated Master Plan “will be essential to the future health and success of Mt. Washington and the Mt. Washington partners.” We strongly urge you and state/county officials to ensure public participation and transparency as this process goes forward.

Not to seize this opportunity to reassess and plan, we believe, would bring shame upon New Hampshire and those with the responsibility of sustainably managing Mt. Washington for our grandchildren and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of our viewpoint, which is shared by many others.

Richard and Jean Knox
Center Sandwich, NH