



Mt. Washington Ecological Assessment

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To Senator Bradley, DNCR Commissioner Stewart, F&G Director Mason, the Mt. Washington Observatory, WMNF Supervisor Ibarguen and the Mt. Washington Commission,

please provide the status of the promised funding for the Ecological Assessment of Mt. Washington/Agiocochook.

It is implicit in the Mt. Washington Commission minutes of 10/28/22 that an Ecological Assessment of Mt. Washington would be done:

“Discussion, finalization and changes to the Master Plan were made, see below. Mr Brooks did not have any other additions. He agreed with the changes to make document more stylistic and to clarify the public’s concerns.

Pg. 5, that **all future development** will be subject to the Plan and **shall address the recommendations of an assessment**. Some public attendees asked that the plan be put on hold until after the assessment was complete...

Implementation – pg. 13. There was a long discussion about changes to this section, including:

Whether MWC’s review of **the assessment** “shall require” the modification of the Master Plan

The concern that elements of **the assessment** may conflict with other goals of the Master Plan

Mr Wemyss said that we need to understand that we are talking about a sensitive environment and may have to modify how we do business. **Growth has to be modified to protect the mountain...**

Chair Bradley offered a revision to the text: “The Commission **shall review the assessment and shall modify the master plan based upon the recommendations in the assessment** and the other recommendations of the master plan.” Mr Bergeron MOVED to adopt the amended language; Mr Wemyss SECONDED.”

https://nhconservation.org/lib/exe/fetch.php?media=mw:mwc_minutes_102822.pdf

The Ecological Assessment is to be informed by the most recent Natural Heritage Bureau report which states:

“NHB’s finding identified that **the proposed Lizzie’s Station would eliminate approximately 35,500 ft² [.8 acres] of intact alpine tundra.** This excludes the existing railroad line and the associated disturbed areas on the east side of the tracks. The following findings are based on NHB’s inventory and observations. State conservation ranks [S1-S5] indicate the relatively rarity of both species and natural communities. S1 indicates the rarest or most imperiled species and communities, while S5 are the most common and secure... The alpine tundra system within the survey area was a mix of two different natural communities, sedge – rush – heath meadow (S1) and felsenmeer barren (S2)”

(Note that his report does not appear to address the impacts of the proposed construction.)

Given the existence of the State Park, the heavy use of Mount Washington/Agiocochook, and the severity of proposed damages to it, funding the Ecological Assessment now, is imperative.

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