

From: [charlie jacobi](#)  
To: [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)  
Subject: alpine sleeper car proposal  
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I write to object to the proposed overnight accommodation sleeper cars proposed by the Cog RR. This is a bad idea on so many levels. No more such developments should be allowed in NHs alpine zone, the most fragile ecosystem in the state and the northeast. Can we not put the health of our natural world and the wild experiences still found atop New England ahead of the almighty dollar and the accommodation of ever-increasing numbers of visitors to a severely limited, fragile resource?

This rare habitat, its current overwhelming visitation, and the increasingly obvious effects of climate change demand a thoughtful, independent environmental analysis before any plan is developed. Set the draft plan aside until you know the environmental and social impacts, including the visual landscape. Better yet, toss it out because in its current form it will have undue influence on what is right for the mountain and what a large constituency of northeastern alpine enthusiasts is greatly concerned about.

Demand to reach the summit of Mount Washington will never decrease unless the population of the northeast collapses cataclysmically - and none of us want that. Do not chase demand. It's an evolutionary arms race, like a dog chasing its tail. And do not invent demand either.

In the foreword of *Wilderness Ethics* Laura and Guy Waterman wrote the following, and state park managers must carefully consider this for the sake of neighboring landowners, partners, and the many visitors who value wildness:

Wildness is imperceptibly eroded away. It is chipped at over time by those who want to build a hut at a quiet view spot, or locate a trail up a hitherto pathless ridge, or construct a bridge where none had been deemed necessary in the past, or are overly hasty in their use of helicopters in the mountains, or in traveling in large groups ... Each must be carefully weighed; measured against what is gained and what is lost in terms of mountain solitude and wildness. Wildness, it seems, is expendable. But once spent, like time itself, we can rarely gain it back.

If the physicists' arrow of time in this universe is one way, on our human timescale the arrow of wildness is one way too. Wildness dies the death of a thousand cuts, it's nibbled to death by ducks, it's victim to the tyranny of small decisions, insert your own metaphor here, and think cumulative impact. What will

be next, and when? Each little decision, or in this case, BIG decision, may be easily justified. This is the time to rely on the guidance of Aldo Leopold:

"The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land." Think about restraint. Think about the land. Think like a mountain.

Charlie Jacobi  
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