

From: [Michael Cohen](#)
To: [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)
Subject: Balance Conservation and Visitation in Master Plan
Date: Friday, August 12, 2022 10:38:06 AM

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Dear Commissioners, Mount Washington Commission,

Dear Commissioners,

I write this letter as a resident of NH, a member of the AMC and a member of the Mt. Washington Observatory and as someone who has experienced the beauty and benefits of the White Mountain National Forest, generally, and the Presidential Range, including Mount Washington State Park, in particular, for over 40 years. The Mount Washington Master Plan can serve as a vehicle to protect and preserve this beauty and all its environmental uniqueness for future users. Over the years there have been multiple uses of the summit that often conflict, including over development and environmental protection. From my perspective there are critically important activities that the plan should promote in order to protect the unique ecological role the summit region plays in supporting the northeast alpine zone and furthering weather science and climate research. Certainly I want to continue the access to this fragile zone for recreation and tourism, but these activities must be balanced to assure a sustainable alpine zone. I encourage the Commission to incorporate into its plan sustainable practices that promote resilience, such as minimizing, waste and light pollution, developing a net zero emissions plan, strengthen protections for the fragile alpine zone ecosystem and using science and research to make informed decisions that generally promote and build sustainability. This might include how we consider future limitations on building structures and regulations on summit uses and visitors to minimize impact. If we want future visitors to the summit we must protect this fragile environment. The master plan can guide the way.

It is also important for the plan to build into its implementation identifying and establishing strong collaborative working relationships with key stakeholders who also have an interest in the alpine zone and the forest generally. Working collaboratively leads to better and more informed decisions. The summit does not exist in a vacuum and neither should the plan. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the plan.

Regards,
Michael Cohen


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