

**From:** [Emily Benson](#)  
**To:** [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Master Plan Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 11:49:52 PM

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To the Members of the Mt. Washington Commission,

My name is Emily Benson and I am writing to share my opposition to the adoption of a Master Plan for the summit of Mt. Washington that is not informed by a thorough environmental and climate assessment covering not only the summit region, but the entirety of Mt. Washington. I have resided in Jackson since 1991, my husband and I raising our 2 children on adventures in all seasons throughout the White Mountain National Forest, including the ridges and valleys surrounding Mt. Washington. My initial love and respect for this region developed through hiking adventures with my family as a young girl, and grew deeper during my years working in the Appalachian Mountain Club's hut system as well as doing scientific research in the fragile alpine environment of the Mt. Washington and the Presidential Range.

**An environment and climate assessment must be completed BEFORE a Master Plan is adopted.** The Commission should be placing a priority on the "restoration, protection and preservation of the alpine environment of the Summit landscape and surrounding environment" BEFORE considering the services and infrastructure to be provided. Currently the quality of the environment and experience is being significantly impacted by the number of people accessing the Summit. Optimizing access to visitors over the health of the environment demonstrates that the Commission is more interested in maximizing the amount of revenue that can be generated as opposed to the protection and preservation of this unique and fragile environment in perpetuity. The Summit, as well as several other areas in the White Mountain region, are already surpassing their ability to accommodate the numbers of people that are visiting the region. Instead of increasing the infrastructure to support visitors, I believe that systems and policies should be put into place to better manage and limit the numbers of visitors to the summit so as to reduce overall environmental impacts and "maintain the quality of the mountain environment and overall experience." **A thorough environmental and climate assessment must be done first in order to better inform any future plan.**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my input, and I trust that the Commission will give serious consideration to all public comments that are being submitted.

Sincerely,

Emily Benson  
Jackson, NH