

**From:** [Gary Newfield](#)  
**To:** [DNCR: Mt Washington Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Lizzie Bourne Station Development  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022 4:04:38 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to inform you of my opposition to the development of the Lizzie Bourne Station below the summit area of Mount Washington for the following reasons:

1. BEFORE any new development occurs in and around Mt Washington a complete and thorough independent environmental and climate assessment needs to be performed of the summit region. As there are only 13 acres of alpine tundra east of the Mississippi, before any new development occurs this environmental review must be completed to guide future decisions and those decisions impacts upon alpine flora and fauna.
2. I feel the acceptance of the draft master plan on 7/5/2022 should be rejected! Environmental and climate assessments must be completed BEFORE a new master plan is developed for the summit, and these assessments should be used to guide the master plan process. It is my understanding the current master plan has not been fully updated since 1970. Much has occurred since that time. Visitation and use of the summit has exploded with subsequent substantial impacts, we are now experiencing the effects of the burning of fossil fuels and the warming of our planet. Automobiles, the cog and even hikers have a carbon footprint that is affecting and will continue to affect the alpine ecosystem. Also, the current master plan does not address these issues adequately nor does it address the states obligation to maintain the ecological integrity of Mount Washington.
3. Constructing 18 new structures above tree line to reduce congestion on the summit does not solve the problem of congestion. It smacks of the old corporate adage "The solution to pollution is dilution". As with any ecosystem, Mount Washington has a carrying capacity for human impact. As much as it may be painful to say, I am in favor of limiting the number of individuals visiting the summit each day. Having hiked Mt Washington many times in the 1980's to late 1990's I never encountered the numbers of visitors as I have in the last 15-20 years. I understand it will be difficult to limit hikers as there are many routes accessing Mt Washington but I do not feel this problem is insurmountable.
4. As recent news has indicated the Mount Washington Committee is dysfunctional and needs to be restructured. A new independent

commission needs to be organized to make decisions about the summit and its environs. Mount Washington is unique in so many ways that neither for profit entities, nor state agencies subject to political influence should be making short term decisions that will affect future generations and the ecological integrity of the summit area.

5. I repeat-I am opposed to the construction of the Lizzie Bourne Station. Mt Washington is unlike many other mountains in the region and even the country. The planet has changed significantly since Joe Dodge first proposed a weather observatory on the summit. World population has exploded, global warming is impacting huge areas of the planet including Mt Washington, the arctic is burning, Europe is experiencing unprecedented heat waves, Pakistan is under water, and I could go on. More development is not the solution to what is ailing the summit. We need to admit the summit and surrounding areas have limits and agree to what those limits should be so future generations can enjoy the area as we now know it.

Sincerely,

Gary Newfield