

WHO HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE APPROVAL OF THE LIZZIE PROJECT?

By engineering the move the Cog's latest high-elevation hotel proposal off the summit, the State can claim it lacks jurisdiction.

Coos County Planning Board: The Coos County Planning Board (CCPB) and the Coos County Zoning Board of Authority appear to be the only entities that have jurisdiction over the Lizzie proposal. It is essential that the CCPB require a thorough Environmental and Climate Assessment of Mt. Washington and its summit, with particular focus on the impacts of the Lizzie Station proposal before considering any application from the Cog and the State. If the Mt. Washington Commission and the State refuse to perform the required Assessments, the CCPB must act to protect the health of Mt. Washington and the public interest.

Write a letter to the Coos County Planning Board requesting that it reject the Lizzie Station Proposal, or, at a minimum, require a thorough Environmental and Climate Assessment of the Lizzie Project on the summit Region before considering the Cog's Lizzie Station application. (*Address: Coos County Planning Board, 34 County Farm Road, P.O. Box 310, West Stewartstown, NH 03597.*)

White Mountain National Forest: The White Mountain National Forest is the sole abutter of the Cog right-of-way. As of early August 2022, it seems to be adopting a hands-off approach. Derek Ibarguen, Supervisor of the WMNF since August 2020, and a member of the Mt. Washington Commission, informed me that the WMNF "is interested in the proposal" and plans "to provide information to the Cog Railway to highlight concerns and potential impacts to national forest lands. These comments would be in the

spirit of managing use and protecting resources relative to the proposal, if implemented, while also recognizing and respecting private property rights.”¹

The WMNF has a statutory and a moral obligation to protect the integrity of the ecosystems that sustain the alpine flora and fauna. It has not yet supported calls for conducting an Environmental and Climate Assessment before writing the MWC Master Plan. Nor has the WMNF insisted that a comprehensive Assessment be completed prior to consideration of applications for permits for the Lizzie Proposal.

It is essential that the WMNF take responsibility for protection the wilderness experience of the Great Gulf Wilderness which essentially abuts the Cog rail line near the proposed site of Lizzie Station. Supervisor Ibarguen needs to insist on a thorough Environmental and Climate Assessment of the entirety of Mt. Washington. Further, Ibarguen must join in supporting a moratorium on all development on or near the summit until the Assessment has been completed and all recommendations have been implemented.

Write White Mountain National Forest Supervisor Derek Ibarguen

[http://derek.ibarguen@usda.gov](mailto:derek.ibarguen@usda.gov). Demand that the WMNF protect the health of Mt. Washington and its summit region by insisting on the completion—and implementation—of a credible, comprehensive Environmental and Climate Assessment before considering any development proposals on or near the summit of Mt. Washington.

Moral Jurisdiction: The jurisdiction over the fate of the Sacred Mountain that is the highest peak in the northeastern United States should reside those who ask:

¹ Derek Ibarguen, email to Jamie Sayen, March 30, 2022.

- What are the needs of the land?
- What human behaviors must be modified to protect the health of Mt. Washington

and its flora and fauna?

Time for a White Mountain National Park? If the White Mountain National Forest evades its responsibility to the maintain the health of Mt. Washington and its denizens, we must demand that the 800,000-acre WMNF be removed from the jurisdiction of the US Forest Service and transferred to the National Park Service to establish a Mt. Washington National Park.