

Mt. Washington Master Plan

October 2022

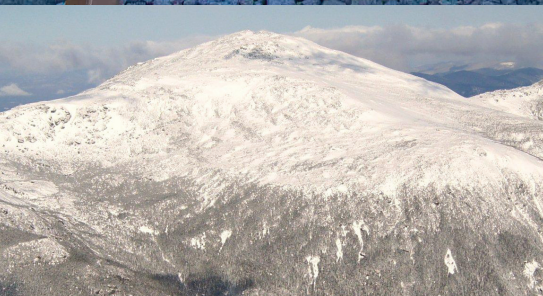


Table of Contents

I	Statutory Requirements	1
II.	Purpose	2
III.	Process	3
IV.	Operation and Maintenance	4
	A. Environment, Summit Assessment, and Aesthetics	4
	B. Operation of the Summit Generally	5
	C. General Maintenance	6
	D. Finance	6
	E. Education/Outreach	7
	F. Safety	8
	G. Real Property Management	9
V.	Capital Improvements	9
	A. General Goals	9
	B. Accessibility and Inclusiveness	9
	C. Enhanced Visitor Experience within Structures	10
	D. Trails	10
	E. Yankee Building	10
	F. Water and Waste	11
	G. Energy Efficiency and Sustainability	12
VI.	Implementation	12
VII.	Conclusion	12

PREPARED BY:

- N.H. Senator Jeb Bradley
- N.H. Representative Karen Umberger
- Ed Bergeron, Governor Appointee
- Christopher Ellms, Governor Appointee
- Philip A. Bryce, Governor Appointee
- Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner, N.H. Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources
- Wayne Presby, Mount Washington Cog Railway
- Howard Wemyss, Mt. Washington Auto Road
- Rob Kirsch, Mount Washington Observatory
- Chris Thayer, Appalachian Mountain Club
- Derek Ibarguen, Forest Supervisor, White Mountain National Forest
- Drew Scamman, Townsquare Media
- Torene Tango-Low, Clerk
- K. Allen Brooks, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Counsel

I. Statutory Requirements

Pursuant to RSA 227-B:6:

The commission shall:

I. Prepare a master plan for the summit including but not limited to:

- (a) Capital improvements to be made by the state over a 10-year period;
- (b) The proposed operation of the summit by the commission including fees to be charged for the facilities operated by the commission, the method of collection of such fees, employment of personnel, franchises to be granted to concessionaires, and any other items deemed necessary to the proper operation of the summit by said commission;
- (c) Promotion of the use of the summit by the public as a recreational, historic or scientific attraction;
- (d) Protection of the summit as to its unique flora and other natural resources;
- (e) The negotiation of public rights-of-way to the summit over private lands which benefit from the improvement of facilities on the summit;
- (f) Cooperative arrangements between private interests and the commission relative to the collection of fees, joint personnel, and any like subject.

II Submit the said master plan to the governor on or before January 1, 2010, and on January 1 every 10 years thereafter, for approval and for enabling legislation in the New Hampshire legislature.

III Monitor all fees being paid to the state for the use or lease of state-owned facilities on the summit, such fees to be used by the commission in its duties and for its expenses.

IV The governor and council are to authorize the expenditure of funds for final design and contract plans out of funds appropriated for that purpose when requested by the commission. The governor and council are to authorize the construction of the capital improvements to the Mount Washington summit authorized by the general court in a manner consistent with the 10-year master plan prepared by the commission.

V Cooperate and consult with the division of parks and recreation of the department of natural and cultural resources concerning the daily operation of the summit as carried on by the division of parks and recreation.

VI Consult and advise with the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources[.]



II. Purpose

The summit of Mount Washington is iconic and emblematic of the Granite State. All visitors to the summit should have the opportunity to observe and experience its unique environment. The purpose of this Master Plan is to enhance the opportunities for this experience while enabling the success of all Summit Partners¹ by ensuring that the summit of Mount Washington, featuring the Mount Washington State Park, continues to be a must-see destination for visitors to the region while also ensuring that the summit's natural resources are protected. This will be achieved by: maintaining a high quality mountain experience that respects Mount Washington's uniqueness; actively stewarding the summit's flora and fauna, its facilities, and its history; and, consciously aligning the capacities of the summit environment, the resources supporting buildings, sewage, waste, energy, and water systems, and the number of people expected or permitted to visit the summit each year.



The “Summit” referenced in RSA ch. 227-B is comprised of State property and facilities.² Overall management of the Summit and facilities to support visitors became the responsibility of the N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation (“N.H. State Parks”) when the Summit became a State park in 1964. The existence of the Summit Partners is inextricably linked to the physical and geographic attributes of Mount Washington and the degree to which they succeed depends, at least in part, on the State Park fulfilling that responsibility. N.H. State Parks strives to provide a quality public recreational experience that includes education and interpretation. Its management is enhanced by such public-private partnerships.

Among other things, the Mount Washington Commission (“Commission”) advises and assists N.H. State Parks in managing the Summit. In doing so, the Commission must try to balance conflicting goals. The Commission seeks to restore, protect, and preserve the alpine environment of the Summit. The Commission similarly recognizes the importance of access, recreation, and fiscal responsibility. Meeting these objectives necessarily includes providing Summit infrastructure systems that incorporate high-quality services to match capacity and environmental needs. The Commission strives to maintain the quality of the mountain environment in perpetuity and to accommodate the significant number of people and vehicles that visit the Summit.

¹“Summit Partners” shall refer to Commission members who own, lease, or otherwise contractually occupy an area on the physical Mount Washington summit. However, the Commission recognizes that it benefits from the efforts of all of its members including the voluntary support and assistance of the U.S. Forest Service. The Commission also recognizes that many parties have legal interests in the summit area.

²RSA 227-B:2, II states: “Summit” shall mean the Mount Washington summit property owned by the State.” A map of the Summit is attached as Attachment 1.

III. Process

The Commission has attempted to set forth goals, objectives, and tactics in detail in this Master Plan. To create the Master Plan, the Commission used a process:

- Wherein Commission members trusted and respected each other;
- Wherein all Summit partners contributed to success and ultimate outcomes;
- Wherein the Summit partners recognized their *interdependence* but also respected their *independence*;
- Wherein the Summit partners ensured that the communal support that each organization gives to each other in times of need continued;
- Wherein Commission members recognized that when all Summit Partners work together, all will benefit;
- Wherein the Commission recognized the “all hands on deck” approach to managing important issues, especially as it relates to responding to emergencies and safety;
- That applauded and carried on the culture of helping one another, especially among operational staff on the Summit and on the mountain generally, which arises, in part, from recurring extreme and often dangerous conditions;
- That recognized the critical contributions and services provided by the U.S. Forest Service and Appalachian Mountain Club (“AMC”) in educating, protecting and reducing the environmental footprint of those who hike to the summit;
- That recognized the evocative reputation and the critical summit-related research of the Mount Washington Observatory;
- That recognized the public service and security importance of the various Summit communications systems;
- That recognized the essential roles of the historic and special experiences provided to Summit visitors by the Mount Washington Cog Railway and the Mt. Washington Auto Road;
- That recognized the hard work and dedication of N.H. State Parks;
- That meaningfully involved the general public;
- That encouraged creative thinking and respected the rights of all parties;
- That built upon prior work; and,
- That utilized third-party expertise where appropriate.



IV. Operation and Maintenance

A. Environment, Summit Assessment, and Aesthetics

Summit management by N.H. State Parks in cooperation with Summit Partners should aspire to preserve and where practicable improve the Summit environment by ensuring that resources invested at the Summit are sufficient so that the human presence there is consistent with the environmental goals and protections established in this Master Plan.

As an initial step, an assessment of the Summit (“Assessment”) should be completed forthwith by a qualified third-party. The Assessment should examine damage to and deterioration of the environment including, but not limited to an analysis of contaminated groundwater and soils around the Summit, damage to and options for restoring alpine flora, and steps to be considered under the goals of this plan in light of the anticipated consequences of climate change, and other environmental considerations. “Contamination” in this context is to be interpreted broadly. Prior recommendations related to protecting flora and fauna and information from the N.H. Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) database will help inform the Assessment. Assistance from the N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services and the N.H. Fish and Game Dept. should be requested to help determine a scope of work. The Assessment should include a building survey and an infrastructure survey; however, such surveys shall not impinge on the confidentiality or privacy interests of State Park tenants. This Assessment will form a baseline and resource for planning. All future development proposed for the Summit will be subject to this Plan, and proponents of future Summit projects shall address the information and recommendations in the Assessment, including any updates, in order to demonstrate compliance with this Plan. Given its importance and estimated cost, the Commission will help seek a capital appropriation for this Assessment.³

To the maximum extent possible, N.H. State Parks and Summit Partners should address damage to and deterioration of the Summit environment, including stressed or damaged vegetation and impacts of invasive species, identified in the Assessment. This could include remediation of impacts or mitigation – meaning avoidance, minimization, or offsets achieved by restoration. Adverse impacts should also be avoided using lessons learned. The State Park and Summit Partners should continue to enhance the protection of the fragile alpine ecosystem at the Summit through pathways, trails, and signage. Implementation will be informed by the Assessment discussed above.

With respect to structures, the Commission, through this Master Plan, hereby adopts a high standard for planning and performance aimed at avoiding unnecessary additional structures. The negative environmental consequences of existing and future structures should be minimized while balancing ongoing needs, considering other objectives such as the creation of important historic depictions, and meeting the objectives of this Plan. This standard does not prohibit new structures; however, it embodies a commitment to minimize and mitigate environmental damage when performing necessary construction, repairs, or maintenance. Opportunities should be sought to make new structures even less impacting than previous structures such that construction could actually promote positive environmental changes. Management practices and improvements to conserve resources, for example, taking advantage of opportunities to reclaim water or creatively manage sewage need, are also encouraged.

³The Commission also encourages completion of a visitor survey, using expertise from entities like UNH. Depending on the scope of this survey, it may be able to be completed as part of the larger Assessment.

N.H. State Parks should account for aesthetic impacts. For instance, it should endeavor to reduce the visual impact of fuel tanks. Measures may include reducing the number of tanks and options such as wrapping or coating the tanks in material that helps them blend into the landscape.

B. Operation of the Summit Generally

The Summit should be managed to promote desirable experiences including the enjoyment of iconic views and unique visitor experiences. Operations should ensure a good experience for hikers understanding that hikers appreciate the services offered at the Summit because they know that they will soon return to the rugged above-tree-line experience of the Presidentials.

The Mount Washington Cog Railway and the Mt. Washington Auto Road each bring well over 100,000 visitors to the Summit each year. The number of hikers each year is currently unknown but likely approaches that of other transportation modes. Management techniques, investments and objectives for the Summit must take into account the number of current and expected visitors. N.H. State Park's management of the Summit is subject to deeded reservations related to access, which must be honored in future decisions. In particular, future decisions must accommodate:

[t]he rights of the passengers, guests, and employees of the Mount Washington Road Company and the Mount Washington Railway Company, and of the students and faculty of educational institutions, and of hikers, skiers and other members of the general public, to pass and repass, in common with others, over and across the premises [] which are not occupied by buildings or other structures for the purpose of scientific research and for the purpose of obtaining a view from and observing the summit of Mount Washington.

Book 481, pg. 212, Coos County Registry of Deeds. N.H. State Parks can limit the capacity of structures like the Sherman Adams Building. As currently configured, the Sherman Adams Building can accommodate 495 people on the main floor and 298 people on the ground floor. In the event that building access is restricted due to those limitations, additional amenities (i.e. restrooms, water) will need to be provided at the Summit to support the visitors, or hours extended to allow access to the Sherman Adams Building earlier and later in the day. N.H. State Parks asserts that the operating season is dictated, for the most part, by the weather.

With this information in mind, experiences should be tailored to meet identified needs and limitations. In general, N.H. State Parks should evaluate controlling the number of visitors present at a specific time, using reservation systems, or changing operating hours with respect to structures. Those decisions should recognize the purposes stated above, the requirements of relevant deeds and the Commission's charge in RSA 227-B:6, 1(c) relative to the "[p]romotion of the use of the summit by the public as a recreational, historic or scientific attraction." Recognizing that there will always be a physical limit to the number of people on the Summit at any given time, the Summit Partners and the U.S. Forest Service should investigate ways to limit the number of Summit visitors in order to contribute to the long-range success of the Mount Washington experience and to help ensure that the level of investment in Summit resources balances with the number of visitors. The Commission may update this recommendation as it deems necessary.

C. General Maintenance

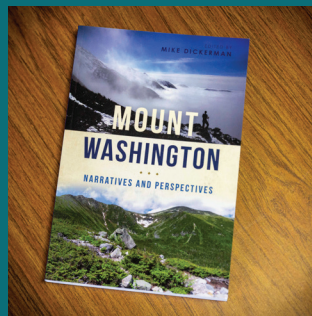
Maintenance upgrades for Summit structures should be proactively planned consistent with this Master Plan. There are a number of pending repairs needing attention including: tiles on the observation deck, cracked cement, roof leaks, and paint on the Sherman Adams Building. Cleanup of the Summit and a neat appearance should be an ongoing priority. Abandoned items around the summit (those not offering historic value), including construction debris, and other debris should be removed. The foundation of the former generator should be evaluated for re-use in the context of a long-term plan for Summit structures (e.g., new building for Observatory, additional visitor service, maintenance support, or another viewing platform) and removed if there is no use

D. Finance

The Commission will undertake to make the Summit a model of sustainable tourism and land management. All parties acknowledge the need for a fiscally sustainable State Park that operates consistent with the purposes stated in this Plan, and shall explore options to generate revenue that will contribute to operating expenses, maintenance, and improvement projects that up to now have been funded mainly through Capital Improvement funding.

Currently, Mount Washington State Park is the only park in the N.H. State Park system that does not financially support the operations of the park system statewide. All Park revenue is deposited in the Mount Washington Fund to be used on the Summit. No Park revenue is used to support parks administration or to support less iconic locations that cannot generate enough revenue to support themselves. Capital funds used on the Summit are also not available to support improvements in other locations that do financially support the entire park system. However, like Hampton Beach, the Park is an important revenue generator for private sector businesses. Summit Partners shall consider how to support the Mount Washington State Park and each other in meeting the purposes and goals of this Plan. All partners benefit from the success of the others. The Commission shall work to ensure the financial viability and the adequacy of funding to meet the purposes and goals of this Plan. The Commission will explore a summit Stakeholders' agreement or other means to financially support Summit betterment projects devised under this Plan.

The Commission will work with N.H. State Parks to determine whether and how a fee should be charged to enter or use Park facilities. As part of that, a third party should evaluate Park operations unless Commission members can provide such an evaluation free of charge.



Retail and food concessions are the primary source of revenue to support the entire operation of the State Park. The Commission will explore whether and how to use Summit-based transmission and communication revenue to support the Park. The gift shop generates the highest per square-foot return in the parks system. However, space currently is insufficient to operate efficiently and there is little opportunity for future expansion. In particular there is a lack of storage space on the summit.

The Commission will explore opportunities, consistent with this Plan, to improve the space available for generating revenue in the Sherman Adams Building. Kitchen space, refrigeration and ventilation are inadequate. Existing space in the building should be evaluated to optimize return, preserve visitor experience, and advance the interests of the Summit Partners. Year-round online sales should continue to be explored.

To ensure efficient operations, N.H. State Parks should explore and consider obtaining facilities close to the base of the mountain to support its Summit operations.

E. Education/Outreach

Management activities should result in information, education, access features, and trail maintenance that promotes protection of the fragile alpine environment and an environmental ethic. They should educate visitors about the unique scientific, botanical, meteorological, and geological aspects of the Summit. Educational programs and visits from school and other groups should be coordinated to showcase information on the history of the Summit, climate, environment, and conservation and scientific work performed by the Summit Partners. Synergy among Summit Partners should be increased to do things like, for instance, establish a joint communications package that gives consistent signage and information to Summit visitors.

The Commission, including the Summit Partners, and N.H. State Parks, should promote the scientific research and monitoring on the Summit conducted by the Mount Washington Observatory and the AMC to enhance public understanding. Efforts should be made to create a greater presence and resources for the Observatory Summit Museum so that it can provide an “interpretive experience” for interested visitors. Measures should also be taken to create or maintain world-class Mount Washington Observatory weather research facilities, including indoor/outdoor laboratory, and testing space.

Summit Partners should provide for the creation of displays of rare flora indigenous to the alpine climate to educate about the importance of protecting the Summit. Similarly, Summit Partners should encourage creation of a Nature Gallery as the terrain from the base to the Summit hosts a very diverse population of plants, animals, and insects.

N.H. State Parks, with the assistance of the Commission, should review the Pike’s Peak plan for ideas on how to begin integrating technology-based experiences into the Summit experience, consistent with this Plan. Ideas include guided tours, educational interpretive plans, and a summit-related “App.” to be collaboratively and aggressively promoted. The “App.” could include such features as educational and historical audio and visual presentations, a “Summit Challenge,” a “Summiteers” program, and programs that encourage people to post and share pictures on social media. Commission members including Summit Partners will help advertise and promote any such “App.” along with the existing “Online Donation to Mt. Washington State Park” option and will integrate the donation link into Summit Partner websites. N.H. State Parks will consider collaborating with other high-traffic parks/tourism sites and organizations such as White Mountain Attractions to establish effective messages and information for visitor management.



F. Safety

State Parks should continue assisting and coordinating with rescue professionals to maintain a safe and enjoyable experience within the Park. Where needed, N.H. State Parks should ensure that it has an updated emergency response plan and that it, and Summit Partners, acknowledge their respective roles within response efforts led by the N.H. Fish and Game Department and U.S. Forest Service outside of the Park. The Commission understands that job descriptions for State Park employees on the Summit do not include a requirement to perform emergency responses off site; however, staff often have that training and have assisted hikers on a limited basis. Park staff members assist with assuring the safety of visitors within the Park boundary, including buildings, to the same degree they would in any State Park. Generally, search and rescue efforts outside of the Park are led by the N.H. Fish and Game Department except that from December 1st to May 31st, the U.S. Forest Service has search and rescue responsibility over the Cutler River Drainage Basin. See Attachment 2. As a “rule of thumb,” State Park staff and other entities should call the N.H. Fish and Game Department “for those situations that are beyond their capability.”⁴ All Summit Partners should emphasize cooperation and coordination among the relevant entities in connection with search and rescue activities.

State Parks should continue to promote hiker safety education by its Summits Partners for all season hiking. With respect to safety, education is key.



⁴

This advice courtesy of N.H. Fish and Game Lieutenant Mark W. Ober, Jr., District One Chief.

G. Real Property Management

N.H. State Parks will report on how State property at the Summit is being utilized, along with all analysis and information it may have on the value of relevant leases or licenses. The Commission may then request an independent analysis of how property on the Summit should be valued if it deems appropriate.

Leases and agreements are between the lessee and the State of New Hampshire, rather than the “Commission.” The State has not consulted with the Commission regarding leases in recent years. Consultation is awkward because of the specific rights and interests that some Commission members have in the Park through agreement and deed. However, with the new focus on master planning and the strengthening of both relationships and the function of the Commission, the Commission will be presented with draft leases and agreements including terms, compensation, rights granted, and rights received. This will allow the Commission members to provide comments and advice relative to achieving the Master Plan and to inform the Commission of any anticipated impact on their own operations, visitor experience, and the Park as a whole. Commission members should recuse themselves from portions of relevant discussions, as appropriate, and when agreements are in negotiation, the Commission should go into non-public session, when appropriate, to discuss those negotiations. Generally, N.H. State Parks should ensure that Summit Partners are engaged and heard with respect to leases or contracts on the Summit.

Summit Partners, including N.H. State Parks, should also work to clarify and solidify existing property rights at the Summit.

V. Capital Improvements

A. General Goals

The Commission hopes to achieve a balance between historic and modern facilities at the Summit. Capital improvements, to the greatest extent practicable, will provide for accessibility, inclusiveness, visitor experiences, trail experiences, and energy efficiency as called for elsewhere in this Plan.

B. Accessibility and Inclusiveness

The Commission will, to the extent practicable, ensure that the Summit is accessible and inclusive for all persons. This means providing quality information and access for a diversity of visitors without regard to their physical and intellectual abilities. Capital improvements should provide for such accessibility both indoors and outdoors. The visitor experience should be enhanced for all persons using technology and designs to improve access to natural features and historic or scenic elements. The Commission will also explore opportunities to lower financial barriers of access to the Summit in an effort to achieve additional demographic equity.

The Commission notes that Mount Washington is one of only two of New Hampshire’s forty-eight “four-thousand-footers” with non-hiker access (Cannon is the other), making the Cog Railway and Auto Road integral components of a special experience for hundreds of thousands of visitors annually from around the globe. Therefore, it would be beneficial to create walking surfaces that are safe and accessible to all people with an eye towards permeability, considering limiting factors such as climate, and ensure any work is performed within the context of overall master Plan objectives. The Commission should encourage and participate in a public process of research and investigation to determine the significance of the Summit to indigenous people and, thereafter, identify and considerately incorporate features sensitive to such significance, consistent with the goals of this Plan.

C. Enhanced Visitor Experience within Structures

Capital improvements should be funded that enhance visitor experiences in public structures. These should include:

- Posting historical interpretive panels on the walls of the Sherman Adams Building; and,
- Creating updated and more modern informational displays within the Sherman Adams Building that provide visitors with better knowledge and understanding of the overall uniqueness and history of Mount Washington. This could include a looping video display or enhancements to the museum.

D. Trails

Ways to disperse visitors throughout the Summit should be considered in order to enhance visitor experience by limiting overcrowding in certain locations. Modification of the hiking trail network and the inclusion of new signage to keep visitors on the trail, entertained, and dispersed should be explored. Prior to modification, a trails assessment should be performed. The trail around the Sherman Adams Building should then be improved consistent with N.H. State Park and Commission recommendations, and consistent with this Plan. The possibility of creating a loop trail should be evaluated.

E. Yankee Building

The Yankee Building supports many systems of State and national importance. However, the building is currently in a state of disrepair and was not designed for its current function as a communications facility. At the request of the Commission, an assessment of the building was completed in 2019 addressing fire protection, communications equipment, and alternatives for building use with recommendations. An opinion of costs for reconstruction and a proposed Summit site plan were provided. The Commission should continue to pursue actions to determine how to properly provide an up-to-date communications and maintenance facility including consideration of what other uses might be incorporated in such a facility consistent with this Plan. As part of this process, the Commission should explore funding opportunities to determine the availability of federal and private funding for items like, for instance, fire suppression. The Commission shall assist N.H. State Parks in utilizing the Capital Budget Process, the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”), and other funding sources including the private sector. As called for in this Plan, elements other than communication, such as aesthetic and environmental impacts, will be considered when siting, building, or maintaining summit towers and the Yankee Building. As part of its efforts, N.H. State Parks should consider the potential of having a third party construct and operate a telecommunications facility.



F. Water and Waste

Capital improvements should make sure that waste management systems are designed, sized, and operated to meet the long-term rather than short-term needs while minimizing environmental degradation. This can be furthered by the use of conservation, utilization, and reclamation technology. Consistent with this Plan's objectives, all Commission members will support capital investments, and N.H. State Parks and the Summit Partners shall take steps needed, to ensure that Summit facilities are sufficient to preserve the Summit environment and provide for the needs of the visiting public.

A project is underway to replace the sewage treatment tank and modernize the water systems. It consists of upgrading the seasonal Summit water system to a year-round system. Two new 20,000-gallon water tanks will be installed adjacent to the Sherman Adams Building to replace the deteriorating steel tanks currently located 300 yards down slope from the Sherman Adams Building. The existing sewage treatment plant will be replaced with a larger plant that will provide capacity for anticipated growth in the number of annual visitors over the next decade. Funding for the project has been secured through a combination of capital funds, ARPA, and Land and Water Conservation Fund monies totaling \$3,575,417. The contract for construction has been approved by Governor and Council and is underway.

Restroom facility needs should also be evaluated, using data and accounting from Summit Partners. Future facilities should be constructed based on that evaluation to ensure that the objectives of this Plan are met.



G. Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

Capital improvements should be evaluated and chosen consistent with sustainability principles in order to achieve sustainable operations while serving the needs of the visitor. Protective and energy efficient features should be incorporated into Summit structures to reduce intrusion into visitors' Summit experiences and the environment. To the maximum extent possible, and consistent with the preservation of historic settings, Summit equipment, facilities, and infrastructure should incorporate energy and resource efficient technologies, and should be upgraded, consistent with these principles, to incorporate technical advances. Changes should encourage the lowest possible net emissions. Changes that are compatible with energy certifications or the equivalent and that incorporate renewable energy sources should be encouraged, consistent with these objectives. These may be structural, such as the use of modern building materials or techniques, or non-structural such as switching to LED lights and induction cooking. The Cog Railway will lead efforts to determine if electrical infrastructure and use related to its activities could contribute to cost efficiencies.

VI. Implementation

The deliverables within this Master Plan shall be implemented as soon as possible and, if applicable, will continue to be implemented throughout the planning period unless modified by the Commission. The Commission shall support a request for funding for the Summit Assessment described in Part IV.A. of this Master Plan. It shall review that Assessment and shall modify the Master Plan based upon the recommendations in the Assessment and the other recommendations of the Master Plan.

VII. Conclusion

This Master Plan fulfills the Commissions responsibilities under RSA 227-B:6. The Commission may update or amend this Master Plan as the Commission sees fit.

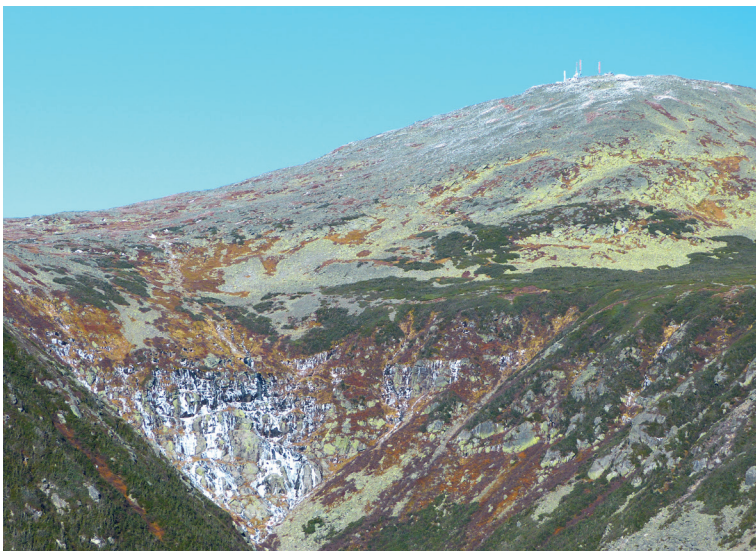


Table 1

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
<p>Aspire to preserve and where practicable improve the summit environment by ensuring that resources invested at the summit are sufficient so that the human presence there is consistent with the environmental goals and protections established in this Master Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
<p>As an initial step, complete an assessment of the Summit (“Assessment”) which should be completed forthwith by a qualified third-party. The Assessment should examine damage to and deterioration of the environment including, but not limited to an analysis of contaminated groundwater and soils around the Summit, damage to and options for restoring alpine flora, and steps to be considered under the goals of this plan in light of the anticipated consequences of climate change, and other environmental considerations. “Contamination” in this context is to be interpreted broadly. Prior recommendations related to protecting flora and fauna and information from the N.H. Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) database will help inform the Assessment. Assistance from the N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services and the N.H. Fish and Game Dept. should be requested to help determine a scope of work. The Assessment should include a building survey and an infrastructure survey; however, such surveys shall not impinge on the confidentiality or privacy interests of State Park tenants. This Assessment will form a baseline and resource for planning. All future development proposed for the Summit will be subject to this Plan, and proponents of future Summit projects shall address the information and recommendations in the Assessment, including any updates, in order to demonstrate compliance with this Plan. Given its importance and estimated cost, the Commission will help seek a capital appropriation for this Assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State parks • Summit Partners • Commission • NHDES • NHF&G • NHB
<p>A visitor survey should be conducted, using expertise from entities like UNH.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
<p>To the maximum extent possible, address damage and deterioration of the environment, including stressed or damaged vegetation and impacts of invasive species, identified in the Assessment. This could include remediation of impacts or mitigation - meaning avoidance, minimization or offsets achieved by restoration. Adverse impacts should also be avoided using lessons learned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission • NHDES • NHB
<p>Continue to enhance the protection of the fragile alpine ecosystem at the Summit through pathways, trails, and signage. Implementation will be informed by the environmental assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
<p>Avoid unnecessary additional structures and minimize the negative environmental consequences of existing and future Summit structures while balancing ongoing needs and considering other objectives such as the creation of important historic depictions and meeting the objectives of this Plan. Look for opportunities to make any possible new structure even less impacting than previous structures such that construction could actually promote positive environmental changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission

Encourage management practices to conserve resources, for example, taking advantage of opportunities to do things like reclaim water or creatively manage sewage need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • NHDES • Summit Partners
Account for aesthetic impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Endeavor to reduce the visual impact of fuel tanks. Measures may include reducing the number of tanks and options such as wrapping tanks in material that helps them blend into the landscape should be considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners

Operation and Maintenance – Operation of the Summit Generally

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Manage Summit to promote desirable experiences including the enjoyment of iconic views and help foster a unique visitor experience. Operate to ensure a good experience for hikers and other visitors..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Tailor experiences to meet needs, limitations, and carrying capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Evaluate limiting number of visitors, using reservation systems, or changing operating hours with respect to structures while recognizing the requirements of relevant deeds and the Commission’s charge in RSA 227-B:6, I(c) relative to the “[p]romotion of the use of the summit by the public as a recreational, historic or scientific attraction.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks
Investigate ways to limit the number of visitors in order to contribute to the long-range success of the Mount Washington experience and to help ensure the level of investment in Summit resources balances with the number of visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summit Partners • N.H. State Parks • Commission

Operation and Maintenance – General Maintenance

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Proactively plan maintenance upgrades for summit structures consistent with the Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Legislature
Track pending repairs: observation deck tiles, cracked cement, roof leaks, and paint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Prioritize cleanup of the Summit generally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Remove abandoned items around the summit (those not offering historic value), construction debris, and other debris.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Evaluate foundation of former generator for re-use or removal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners

Operation and Maintenance - Finance

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Acknowledge need for fiscally sustainable State Park that operates consistent with the purposes stated in this Master Plan and explore options to generate revenue to cover operating expenses and maintenance and improvement projects that up to now have been funded mainly through capital improvement funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Summit Partners shall consider how to support the State Park financially.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Determine whether and how to charge a fee for State Park building use. A third party could possibly be used to assist in this evaluation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Work to ensure the financial viability of the Summit and the adequacy of funding to meet the purposes and goals of this Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summit Partners • N.H. State Parks • Commission
Explore additional Summit Stakeholders' agreement to financially support Summit betterment projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Explore whether and how to use Summit-based transmission and communication revenue to support the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission
Explore opportunities, consistent with this Master Plan, to improve the space available for generating revenue in the Sherman Adams Building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission
Evaluate existing space to optimize return, preserve visitor experience, and advance the interests of the Summit Partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Explore year-round online sales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks
Explore and consider obtaining facilities close to the base of the mountain to support Summit operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Cog Railway • Auto Road

Operation and Maintenance - Education/Outreach

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Continue and expand information, education, access features, and trail maintenance that promote protection of the fragile alpine environment and environmental ethic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Continue and expand visitor education about the unique historic, scientific, botanical, meteorological, and geological aspects of the Summit. Coordinate educational programs and visits from school and other groups to showcase information on history of the Summit, climate, environment, conservation, and scientific work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Increase synergy among Summit Partners to do things like, for instance, establish a joint communications package that gives consistent signage and information to visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Promote the scientific research and monitoring on the Summit conducted by the Mount Washington Observatory and the Appalachian Mountain Club to enhance public understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Provide for the creation of display boxes or other educational tool to display rare flora indigenous to the alpine climate to educate about the importance of protecting the Summit. Encourage creation of a Nature Gallery or similar display tool as the terrain from the base to the Summit hosts a very diverse population of plants, animals, and insects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Review the Pike's Peak plan for ideas on how to begin integrating technology-based experiences into the Summit experience, consistent with this Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Collaboratively and aggressively promote resulting ideas like guided tours and a Summit-related "App." with audio and visual presentations, a "Summit Challenge," a "Summiteers" program, and programs that encourage people to post on social media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Help advertise and promote "Online Donation to Mt. Washington State Park" option and integrate the donation link into Summit Partner websites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Consider collaborating with other high-traffic parks/tourism sites and organizations such as White Mountain Attractions to establish effective messages and information for visitor management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Create or maintain world-class Mt. Washington Observatory weather research facilities, indoor/outdoor laboratory, and testing space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission

Operation and Maintenance - Safety

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Continue assisting and coordinating with rescue professionals to maintain a safe and enjoyable park experience within the State Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Where needed, ensure that an updated emergency response plan for N.H State Parks exists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks
Emphasize cooperation and coordination among the relevant entities in connection with search and rescue activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Continue to promote hiker safety education for all season hiking. N.H. State Parks will determine, in coordination with rescue agencies, its role in off-Park rescues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission

Operation and Maintenance - Real Property Management

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
N.H. State Parks will report on how State property at the Summit is being used along with any analysis it may have on the value of relevant leases or licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks
Present leases and agreements to Commission and ensure that Summit Partners are engaged and heard with respect to leases and contracts on the Summit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Summit Partners, including N.H. State Parks should also work to clarify and solidify existing property rights at the Summit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners

Capital Improvements – Accessibility and Inclusiveness

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
To the greatest extent practicable, provide for accessibility, inclusiveness, visitor experiences, trail experiences, and energy efficiency as called for elsewhere in this Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Provide quality information and access for people of all abilities, both indoors and outdoors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Enhance visitor experience for all persons using designs to improve access to natural features and historic or scenic elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission.
Explore opportunities to lower financial barriers of access to the Summit in an effort to achieve additional demographic equity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission
Create walking surfaces that are more accessible to all people with an eye towards permeability, considering limiting factors such as climate, and ensure any work is performed within the context of overall master planning objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Encourage and participate in a public process of research and investigation to determine the significance of the Summit to indigenous people and, thereafter, identify and considerately incorporate features sensitive to such significance, consistent with the goals of this Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission. • Native American Commission

Capital Improvements – Enhanced Visitor Experience Within Structures

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Post historical interpretive panels on the walls of the Sherman Adams Building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Create updated and more modern informational displays within the Sherman Adams Building that provide visitors with better knowledge and understanding of the overall uniqueness of and history of Mount Washington. This could include a looping video display or enhancements to the Observatory Museum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Parks • Summit Partners

Capital Improvements - Trails

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Explore ways to disperse visitors throughout the Summit through trails or other means to enhance visitor experience and prevent overcrowding. Explore modifying the hiking trail network and including new signage to keep visitors on the trail, entertained, and dispersed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Complete a trails assessment prior to making new trail changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Improve trail around Sherman Adams Building consistent with N.H. State Park and Commission recommendations and this Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Evaluate possibility of Summit loop trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners

Capital Improvements – Yankee Building

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Continue pursuing actions to determine how to properly provide an up-to-date communications and maintenance facility including consideration of what other uses might be incorporated in such a facility consistent with this Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Explore funding opportunities to determine whether there is federal public and private funding available for the Yankee Building. Assist N.H. State Parks in utilizing the Capital Budget Process, the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”), and other funding sources including the private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Consider elements other than just communication when siting, building, or maintaining Summit towers such as aesthetic and environmental impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Consider the potential of having a third party construct and operate a telecommunications facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks

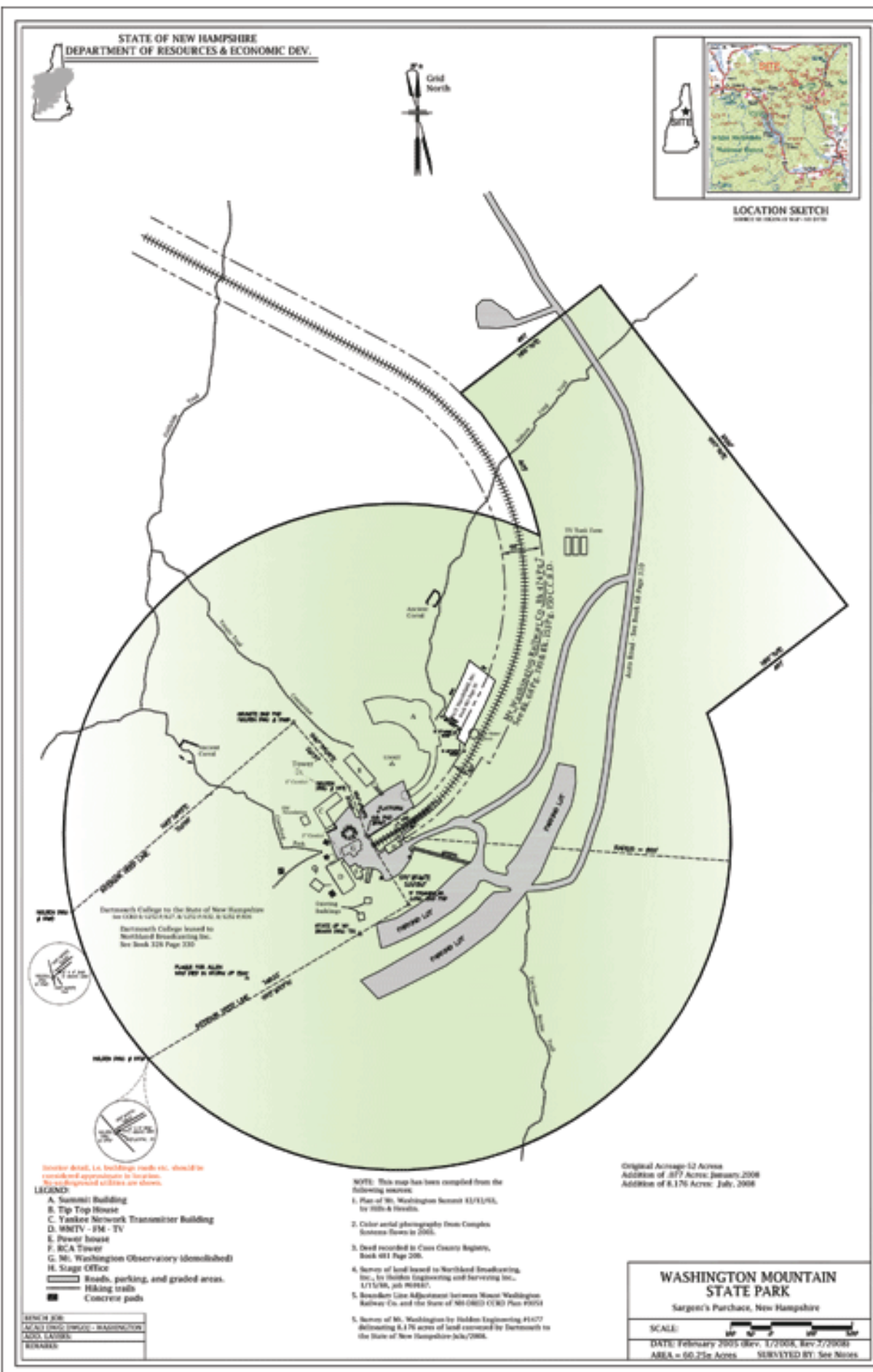
Capital Improvements – Water and Waste

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Ensure that waste management systems are designed, sized, and operated to meet the long-term rather than short-term goals while minimizing environmental degradation. This can be furthered by the use of conservation, utilization, and reclamation technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
Support capital investments, and take other steps, needed to ensure that Summit facilities are sufficient to preserve the Summit environment and provide for the needs of the visiting public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Evaluate restroom facility needs, using data and accounting from Summit Partners, and construct future facilities based on that evaluation to ensure that the objectives of this Master Plan are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission

Capital Improvements - Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

Deliverable	Entity Responsible
Evaluate and choose capital improvements consistent with sustainability principles in order to achieve sustainable operations while serving the needs of the visitor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Incorporate protective and energy efficient features into Summit structures to reduce intrusion into Summit experiences and the environment. To the maximum extent possible, and consistent with the presentation of historic settings, incorporate energy and resource efficient technologies, and should be upgraded, consistent with these principles, to accommodate technical advances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Encourage the lowest possible net emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners • Commission
Encourage both structural and non-structural changes that are compatible with energy certifications or the equivalent with an emphasis on renewable energy sources consistent with these objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.H. State Parks • Summit Partners
The Cog Railway will lead efforts to determine if electrical infrastructure and use related to its activities could contribute to cost efficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cog Railway

Attachment 1



Attachment 2

N.H. Fish and Game Search and Rescue/Dive Policy

USDA Forest Service Policy

Memorandum of Understanding Between State of New Hampshire, Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest U.S. Forest Service on Search and Rescues

NH Fish and Game Search and Rescue/Dive Policy

All search and rescue and/or recovery operations required by RSA 206:26 XII shall be conducted in accordance with the following S.O.P. Guidelines.

PURPOSE: To provide reasonable standard operating procedure guidelines by which all search and rescue, drowning or recovery missions required by RSA 206:26 XII shall be conducted by.

1. Guidelines for statewide search and rescue (SAR) plan
 - a. Upon being advised of a reported lost person, rescue, drowning or downed aircraft when your assistance has been requested, the Conservation Officer in charge of the area, or the nearest available Conservation Officer, will immediately gather all information available such as the who, what, when, where, and how of the situation, being as precise as possible. The officer will then do the following:
2. Call the district supervisor
 - a. Call the area District Lieutenant or Sergeant; if they are not available, the nearest Senior Conservation Officer. After due appraisal of all facts, a determination will be made by the Lieutenant, Sergeant or Senior Conservation Officer as to what further action should be taken.
 - b. Notice of a search, rescue or drowning will be passed onto the Chief of Law Enforcement and/or the Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement or their designee.
3. Responsibility
 - a. Pending the arrival or orders of the Lieutenant, Sergeant, or Superior Conservation Officer, the first Conservation Officer on the scene will assume incident command and take whatever action he feels is necessary, including names and addresses of witnesses and all other people involved. He should call for whatever assistance he feels is required. Any Conservation Officer called upon to assist shall respond at once.
 - b. Upon arrival of the Lieutenant, Sergeant or Superior Conservation Officer, the operation will then become their responsibility. All search and rescue and drowning details of any magnitude will have a Lieutenant or Sergeant in charge. Should the Lieutenant or Sergeant in charge of a detail become ill or require relief, the Chief of Law Enforcement and/or the Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement will assign a Supervisory Officer to take charge.
4. Duties
 - a. It will be the duty of the Lieutenant, Sergeant, or Conservation Officer in charge of a search and rescue or drowning detail to do the following:
 - i. Call whatever Fish and Game assistance is necessary. This will not be limited to the Law Enforcement Division, but may be personnel or equipment from any of

the Divisions within the Department. Request from other Divisions shall be made through the proper Division Chief.

- ii. Call any other state, county or local agencies for manpower or equipment.
- iii. Take whatever action is necessary to call personnel and equipment needed on a local level, keeping in mind that no more volunteers will be used than is necessary. In situations where volunteers are used to carry out special or hazardous assignments, care will be used to make certain of their capabilities.
- iv. When volunteers are utilized, it shall be the responsibility of the officer in charge to secure the names and addresses of all such persons on F&G Form 131-a (4/83) and submit the original copy with search and rescue Form 131. Instructions on F&G Form 131-a, shall be followed when any volunteer is injured. An incident report detailing the injuries shall accompany the F&G Form 131-a.
- v. On National Forest land, call the Ranger in charge of the area and follow the rules of the Letter of Understanding between the White Mountain Forest and the Fish and Game Department. Such Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix I) and National Wilderness Acts memo (Appendix II) shall be an integral part of this Manual.
- vi. Keep Fish and Game or State Police Dispatch, the Chief of Law Enforcement, the Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement or their designee advised of events at all times.
- vii. When a search and rescue or drowning warrants, as determined by the Chief or Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement, a command post or coordination post may be established, calling such persons as are necessary to handle radio communications, news media, etc. In some cases the Chief of Law Enforcement and/or the Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement may make such assignments.
- viii. The Incident Command System Structure may be utilized in all Search and Rescue, Drowning and Recovery missions.
- ix. Each Lieutenant, Sergeant and Conservation Officer II shall keep a regularly updated Search and Rescue Response manual. The SAR Response manual shall include information such as SAR mission protocol procedures, resource lists with contact information and SAR data information.

5. Incident command system

- a. Incident Commander (Search Chief) - Responsible for:
 - i. Overall management of the search and rescue incident.
 - ii. Organizes strategies to be implemented during the incident.
 - iii. Provides direction to personnel under his supervision.
 - iv. Secures necessary resources needed to complete the mission.
 - v. Establishes and maintains an excellent working relationship with the media.
- b. Public Affairs - Responsible for:
 - i. Disseminating information to the media with Incident Command approval.
 - ii. Documentation of the incident.
 - iii. Liaison with assisting agencies.
- c. Dispatcher - Responsible for:
 - i. Communications to/from Incident Command to field personnel.

- ii. Documentation of all communications.
- d. Specialist Advisors
 - i. Individuals or organizations that provide specialized knowledge and/or training in a specific area.
- e. Search and Rescue Team Leaders - Responsible for:
 - i. Qualifications of team members.
 - ii. Maintains a master roster of team members.
 - iii. Directs tactical assignments in a safe manner.
 - iv. Reports progress and condition of resources to Incident Command.
- f. Search and Rescue Team Members
 - i. Performs tactical assignments in a safe and effective manner.

6. Law enforcement agencies to be notified

- a. In all cases of search and rescue and drownings, the State Police, the Sheriff's Department and local police may be notified at the outset and kept informed of events. They will be requested for assistance whenever necessary.
- b. The State Police will handle all out-of-state next-of-kin notifications in cases involving accidents or death.
- c. The State Medical Examiner's Office and appropriate County Attorney shall be notified of all cases involving death.
- d. The State Police or local police will be advised at once of anything of a suspicious nature that may point to foul play, law violations, or suicide for further investigation. A close working relationship between State Police, the Sheriff's Departments and local police will be kept in mind at all times.

7. Response to aircraft accidents

- a. Fish and Game Law Enforcement personnel are not required to respond to the scene of aircraft accidents EXCEPT for the purpose of removing deceased and/or injured persons ONLY, that occur in the woodlands/waters of the State and then only upon request of the N.H. Aeronautics Commission through State Police Communication Headquarters in Concord. Deceased persons shall not be removed from the wreckage without authorization of the medical referee in whose district the accident occurred. It is the responsibility of the aircraft owner and/or FAA to secure the crash scene and to have aircraft removed, according to the State Aeronautics Director.
- b. The Fish and Game Department will maintain liaison with the coordinating agency (NHAC) during any mission so that any request for additional assistance can be made (mountain climbers, helicopters, etc.).
- c. Suspected Criminal Activities - If at any time it is suspected that a crime has been committed, an immediate notification will be forwarded to the Division of State Police and/or local police.
- d. The New Hampshire State Police, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, will be responsible for the control of those persons not directly involved in the mission at the scene of the rescue or recovery area. This includes the blocking off of an area to all but such search vehicles as required for the execution of the surface

mission. The State Police will also provide security at the site of any temporary morgue or any other area if requested or required.

8. Utilization of National Guard aircraft

- a. When any search and rescue mission involves the use of National Guard helicopters, the Lieutenant or Sergeant in charge of the mission shall be required to assign a Conservation Officer to the National Guard Communications Van if it accompanies the helicopter.
- b. The Lieutenant or Sergeant may remain with the Communications Van himself if he so desires, but it is required that an officer be with the van at all times.
- c. The communications van is equipped with a Fish and Game radio. The van is also able to communicate directly with the helicopter. Radio messages are kept at a minimum.
- d. A Conservation Officer will be provided to be on board, accompanying the helicopter during all search and rescue or associated missions.

9. Chain of command

- a. All requests for the National Guard or any helicopters and aircraft will be made through the Chief of Law Enforcement, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement, Captain or in the absence of all, by a Lieutenant.
- b. The final decision to bring a large scale search to an end will be made by the Chief of Law Enforcement and/or the Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement in the absence of the Chief of Law Enforcement.

10. Reports

- a. The Lieutenant, Sergeant or designated Conservation Officer in charge of any search and rescue or drowning operation shall promptly make such reports and summaries as are required by Headquarters on the appropriate forms.
- b. Such reports shall be submitted to Headquarters within ten (10) working days following completion of the mission. An extension of the ten (10) working day submission requirements may be extended by permission of the Chief of Law Enforcement or their designee.

11. Search and rescue plan

- a. All Lieutenants, Sergeants, and Conservation Officers will be required to return to duty for search and rescue and drowning details when on days off or weekends off when their service is required and they are available by phone, radio or other means of communication.

USDA Forest Service Policy:

The USDA Forest Service has the lawful responsibility and authority as the Lead Agency to coordinate all search and rescue missions within the Cutler River Drainage each year from December 1 through May 31 pursuant to FSM 1599; WMNF Supplement No. 4, December 1982. This area encompasses the eastern facing flanks of Mt Washington, including the East Cone, the Alpine Garden, Tuckerman Ravine, Raymond's Cataract, Huntington Ravine, and the terrain down to the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center.

"The Forest Service recognizes its public duty to render assistance in cases involving persons lost in the National Forest System. Also, the transportation of persons seriously ill, injured, or deceased from the National Forest System lands to a point where the person or body may be transferred to interested parties or local authorities." (FSM 1599; Amendment 72, April 1981)

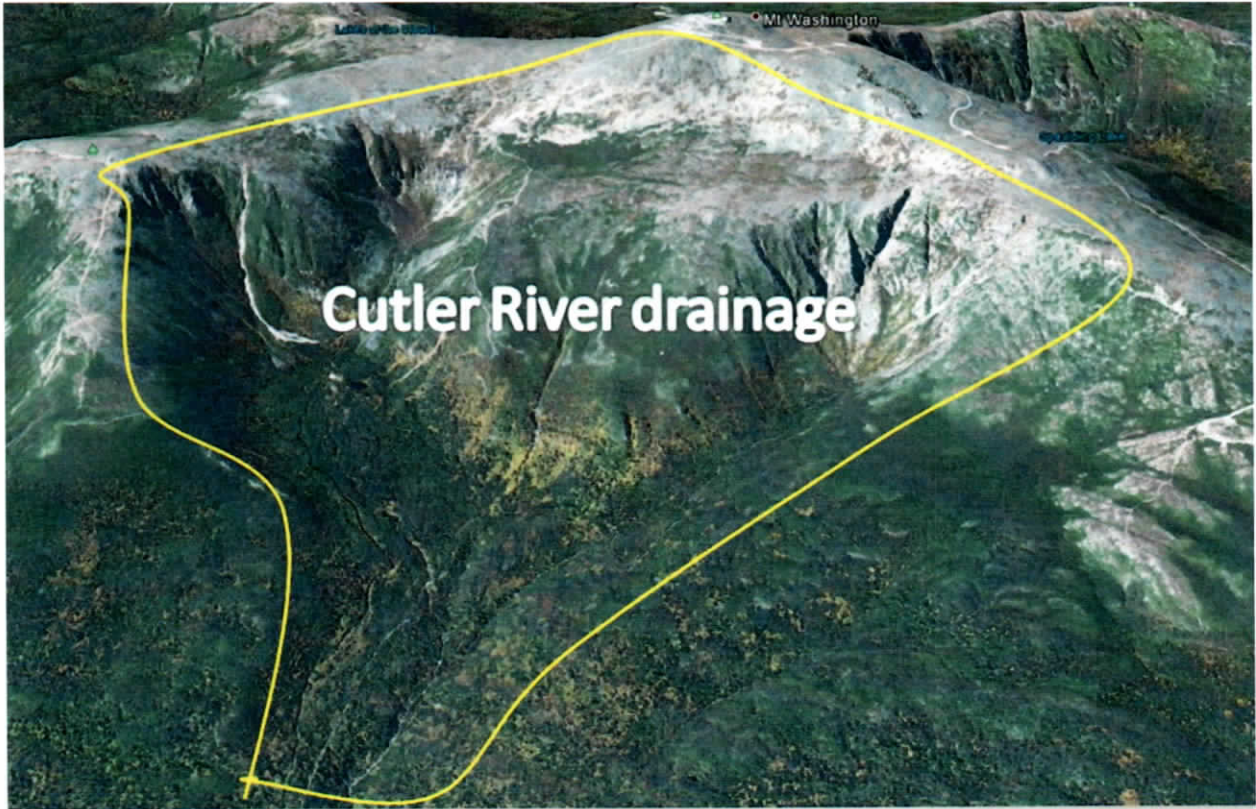
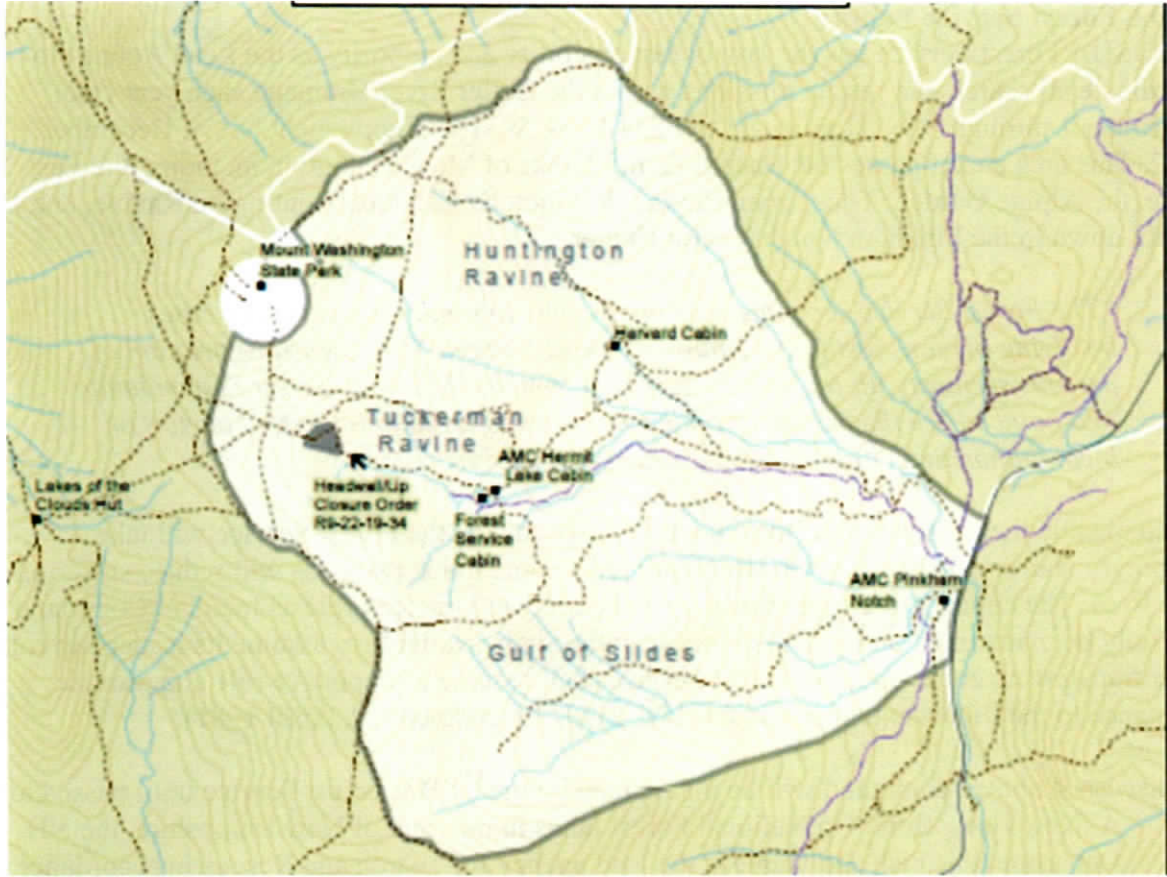
When outside the jurisdiction of the Cutler River Drainage, the Forest Service will take a temporary lead role in any SAR in which immediate and quick response will reduce suffering or save lives. The concept of closest forces must be used and the lead role as Incident Command will only be maintained until the responsible authority is available to assume its leadership role. After transferring command, the Forest Service shall assume a supportive role and provide assistance to the fullest extent possible (FSM 1599; Amendment 72, April 1981).

As discussed above, command will be maintained by the USDA Forest Service until passed to:

A. New Hampshire: On National Forest lands in the state of New Hampshire, the NH Department of Fish and Game is the lead agency for Search and Rescue in accordance with its official state responsibility for all SAR operations.

B. Maine: On National Forest Lands in the state of Maine, the ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is the lead agency for SAR operations.

A SAR incident is an emergency and will be recognized as such by the Snow Rangers and other employees of the USDA Forest Service. When a call involves a threat to human life, the incident will take priority over other Snow Ranger activity except other more serious life threatening situations. The District will respond appropriately while balancing other needs of a diverse workforce. As requested, the District will provide equipment, supplies, human resources, and facilities to meet the objectives. Time is of the essence in any rescue mission, but especially during the winter months when hypothermia can rapidly reduce an individual's ability to survive. Timely notification and a quick response by appropriate resources can mean the difference between life and death.



Appendix I

MEMORANDUM OR UNDERSTANDING

Between
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT
and
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

This memorandum of understanding concerning search and rescue operations on the White Mountain National Forest is made and entered into between the White Mountain National Forest, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, and the Fish and Game Department, hereinafter referred to as the State, agencies with mutual concern for the welfare of the public.

WITNESETH THAT;

WHEREAS, The Forest Service has certain responsibilities for the safety, health, and protection of visitors relative to the National Forest System and to provide assistance in search and rescue; and

WHEREAS, The State has the authority and responsibility for providing search and rescue services for the public; and

WHEREAS, The White Mountain National Forest is partially located in the State of New Hampshire for which the State has the authority and responsibility for search and rescue; and

THEREFORE, The parties hereby mutually agree that it is desirable to cooperate in better utilizing the resources of both agencies while providing for more adequate search and rescue services.

The State agrees to continue providing search and rescue services on lands within or part of any unit of the National Forest within its area of jurisdiction and the normal scope of its duties and capabilities without reimbursement by the Forest Service.

The Forest Service agrees to act as lead for the State in all winter search and rescue operations in the Cutler River Drainage between January 1 to May 31 at no cost to the State.

The Forest Service and the State agree, within availability of funds and established regulations and policies:

1. To notify and keep informed the appropriate Ranger District Office as soon as practical when a search and rescue operation is initiated. The telephone numbers are:

Ammonoosuc Ranger District	(603) 869-2626
Androscoggin Ranger District	(603) 466-2713
Evans Notch Ranger District	(603) 824-2134
Pemigewasset Ranger District	(603) 536-1310
Saco Ranger District	(603) 447-5448

2. To provide support, cooperation and assistance to the State in maintaining a continuing search and rescue program.

3. To furnish at no cost, upon request of the State, available Forest Service personnel and equipment to assist in search and rescue operations.

4. To limit use of motorized equipment except for certain situations. The State is authorized to use motorized equipment outside of designated Wildernesses. The State agrees to limit the use of motorized equipment within Wildernesses to life threatening situations and removal of deceased persons. Further the State agrees to consult with the responsible District Ranger prior to the use of motorized equipment in Wilderness. When prior consultation is not possible, notification will occur as soon as practical. This is in recognition of the Intent of Congress and the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the subsequent establishment of the Wildernesses on the White Mountain National Forest. Those areas in New Hampshire are: Pemigewasset Wilderness, Sandwich Range Wilderness, Presidential Range/Dry River Wilderness and Great Gulf Wilderness.

5. To meet once a year to review this agreement and previous year's operation and plan joint future activities.

RICK D. CABLES
Supervisor
White Mountain National Forest

DONALD A. NORMANDEAU
Executive Director
Fish and Game Department

Date: June 30, 1992

Date: June 30, 1992

Appendix 11

United States
Department.
638
Agriculture
03247

Forest. White Mountain
Service National
Forest

719 Main Street
P.O. Box
Laconia, NH.

Reply to: 1590
Date: September 5,

1984

Major Mason Butterfield
Law Enforcement Division,
New Hampshire Fish & Game Department
34 Bridge Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mason:

The National Wilderness Act prohibits the use of motorized equipment in designated Wilderness Areas except for a few exceptions spelled out in the Act. Motorized Equipment and mechanical transport may be allowed when an emergency condition exists which involves the health and safety of human beings. This may also include the removal of deceased persons from the Wilderness. Forest Service policy requires the approval of the Forest Supervisor before such use is initiated.

As New Hampshire Fish & Game Department has the primary responsibility for search and rescue in the State, I authorize you to use motorized equipment when an emergency involving human health and safety occurs. I ask that your Department notify the District office who administers the Wilderness Area before the search or rescue mission begins. If contact cannot be made prior to entering the Wilderness, please notify the District office as soon as they can be reached.

The District offices are:

Wilderness	Office phone
Great Gulf	466-2713
Presidential Dry River	447-5448
Sandwich Range	447-5448
Pemigewassét	536-1310
Laconia	528-8721

/s/ Michael Hathaway

MICHAEL B. HATHAWAY
Forest Supervisor

Partners

