

**Mount Plantain Natural Heritage Area**  
(Mount Washington)

- Size:** 1337 acres located on top of the Taconic Plateau. This parcel connects to over 15,000 acres of protected land owned by the Commonwealth of Mass, the State of New York, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service and the Town of Egremont. Elevations range from 1600 to 2070 feet.
- Access:** No formal parking areas yet developed.
- Vegetation:** Mostly red oak and northern hardwoods “situated within a relatively unfragmented block of 36,000 acres which has been identified by The Nature Conservancy as being among the largest and most biologically diverse of its type.” Speckled alder and red maple border the few beaver meadows on the property. Hemlock becomes more plentiful along steep water courses and in the area north of Plantain Pond. Mountain laurel comprises much of the understory. A pitch pine/scrub oak community exists on the summit of Mt. Plantain. The entire area is relatively free from exotic invasive plants.
- Water:** There are several small streams and beaver ponds/meadows present. Becker Pond (<1 acre) was created by a small man-made dam along the stream leading down Sages Ravine.
- Wildlife:** Deer, turkeys, bobcats and occasionally bears inhabit the area. 95 species of interior-nesting neotropical birds have been documented here.
- Special Regulations:** The entire 1337 acres are open to the public for passive outdoor recreation purposes such as hiking, snow-shoeing, fishing, wildlife observation and cross-country skiing. Hunting is allowed. However, on the 665 acres surrounding Camp Hi-Rock and Plantain Pond hunting is restricted to the “LAWFUL HUNTING OF DEER (BUT NO OTHER HUNTING)”. No motorized and/or wheeled vehicles are allowed. No public access is allowed to Plantain Pond.