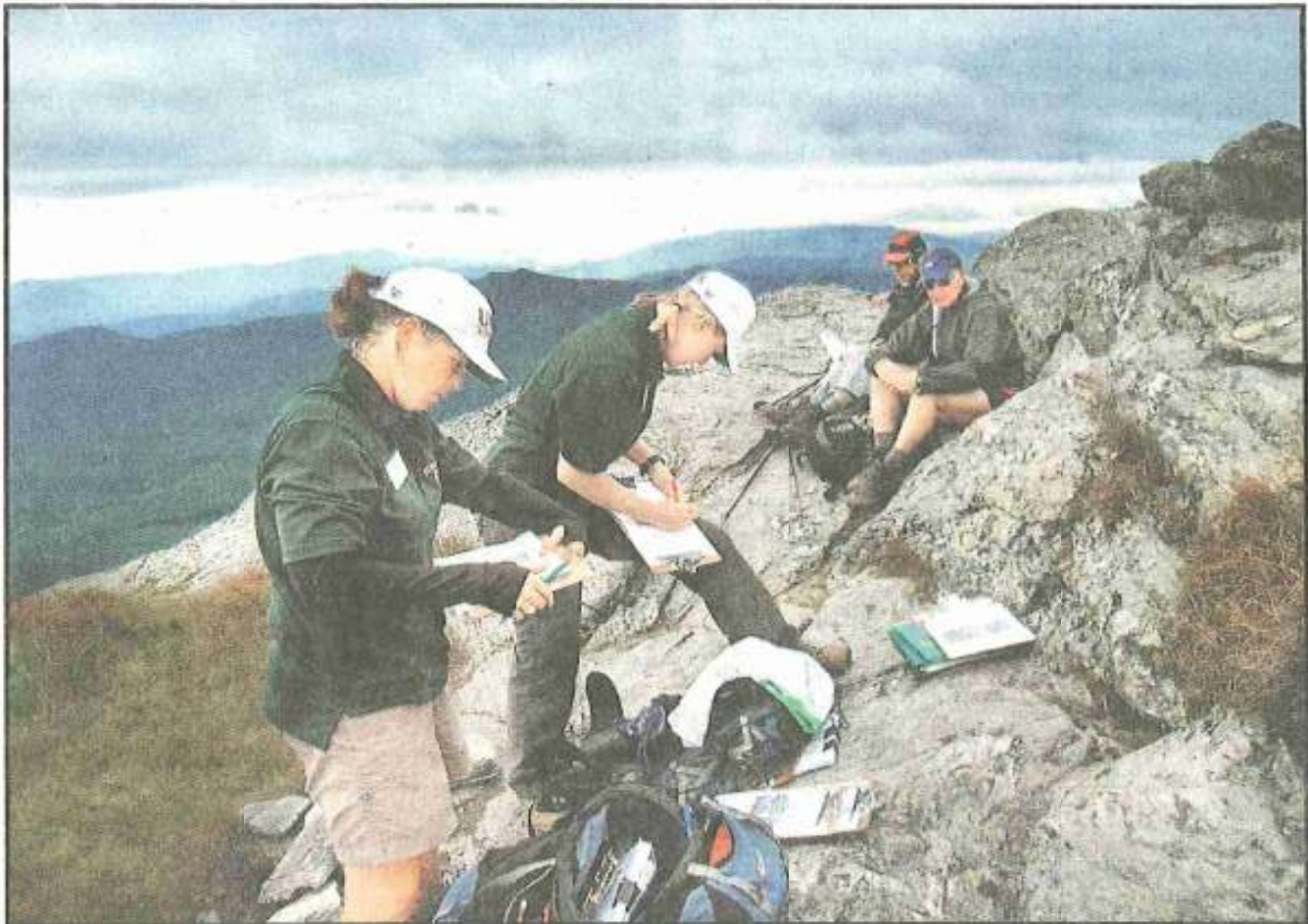


# How much can one mountain take?



CANDACE PAGE, Free Press

Kelly Goonan (far left) and Carena van Riper, graduate students at the University of Vermont, prepare to administer a hiker survey to Reid and Jane Grayson of Shelburne on the summit of Camels Hump on Sunday. The survey is part of a three-summit study to learn how hikers react to crowding, environmental degradation and different approaches to trail management.

## UVM studies balance between hikers, protection

By Candace Page  
Free Press Staff Writer

**ATOP CAMELS HUMP** — Four-thousand feet up in the Green Mountains, Reid Grayson sheltered from the wind behind a granite ledge and began to flip back and forth between two pictures in a loose-leaf notebook.

One photograph showed a paved path snaking across a deserted mountain summit.

A second photo showed the same scene, this time with a natural rocky path. A few people walked the path. Two dozen

others wandered off the trail.

Two University of Vermont researchers had asked Grayson to answer this question: Which set of conditions would he prefer to find atop Camels Hump?

The Shelburne optometrist was one of 35 hikers surveyed Sunday as part of a summer-long study of hiker attitudes on three summits in the Northeast.



### Camels Hump survey

Go online to [www.burlingtonfreepress.com](http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com) to see photos used in the survey and to record your reactions.

The results are expected to help land stewards make decisions about how to manage a steady stream of hikers in a way that visitors find acceptable — while still protecting the fragile mountaintop ecosystem.

As Grayson and his wife, Jane, finished their sandwiches,

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