



March 13, 2020

USDA Forest Service
#: Jay Strand, Somerset Project
99 Ranger Road
Rochester, VT 05767

Dear Mr. Strand,

Mount Snow has reviewed the Somerset Integrated Resource Project with the United States Forest Service, and a bat biologist with our permitting engineer Vanasse Hangen Brustlin. We have some concerns regarding the iron mine referenced on page B-4 of the Environmental Analysis. *Cutting trees over four inches diameter at breast height is prohibited from April 1 through October 31 within a one-mile radius of the Dover Iron Mine.* Mount Snow understands the sensitivity of the iron mine and the bat hibernaculum. Our main concerns are the limitation of cutting trees and the one-mile radius that is being placed. ANSI lift standards are closely regulated by the Vermont Tramway inspections, limbs and tree branches need to be a minimum of five feet from passing chairs. We will do our best to look and review trees at lift areas before April but due to the growing season and the safety of our guests, it might change when a state lift inspector comes to inspect. We would request an exclusion for only the trees or limbs that the Tramway inspector finds a hazard.

The cutting of trees that are at least four inches in diameter within 1-mile of the Dover Iron Mine is more restrictive than the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Final 4(d) Rule. It states the USFS restricts tree cutting from April 1- October 31 within 1 mile of a hibernaculum at any time of the year, while the Final 4 (d) Rule is a much smaller radius and states no tree clearing is permitted within 0.25 mile of a hibernaculum at any time of year. The Final 4(d) Rule tree clearing restrictions are also confined to only June and July. We would like to stay consistent with the current USFS.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Barnes".

Erik Barnes, General Manager
Mount Snow, Ltd.



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