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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

March 26, 2021

Joby Timm
Forest Supervisor
c/o Jessie Howard
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

Re: 2021 Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Project

Dear Mr. Timm:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the submitted ArcGIS shapefiles. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

Terrestrial and Aquatic Natural Heritage Resources

Mating Disruption (SPLAT) Treatment Blocks

Whitetop Mountain 1

According to the information currently in our files, natural heritage resources have not been documented within 100 feet of the project boundaries. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources.

Nebo, Cedar Springs, Whitetop Mountain 2 and Whitetop Mountain 3

Biotics documents the presence of natural heritage resources within the project areas. However, due the use of mating disruption treatment to treat gypsy moth infestations, we do not anticipate that this project will adversely impact these natural heritage resources.

Karst Resources

Whitetop Mountain 2, Whitetop Mountain 3 and Cedar Springs

The Virginia DCR Karst staff screened these treatment areas against the Virginia Speleological Survey (VSS) database and the Virginia DMME sinkhole coverage for documented sensitive Karst features and caves. No significant negative impact is expected to karst or cave resources from the proposed gypsy moth treatments.

If other karst features such as sinkholes, caves, disappearing streams, and large springs are encountered during the project, please coordinate with Wil Orndorff (540-230-5960, Wil.Orndorff@dcv.virginia.gov) the Virginia DCR, Division of Natural Heritage Karst Protection Coordinator, to document and minimize adverse impacts. Potential karst impacts are not necessarily limited to the immediate project area, as karst systems can transport water and associated contaminants rapidly over relatively long distances, depending on the nature of the local karst system.

There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

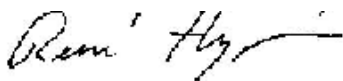
Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the DCR, DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please re-submit project information and map for an update on this natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Ernie Aschenbach at 804-367-2733 or Ernie.Aschenbach@dwr.virginia.gov. There is potential for the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and /or the tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) within the **Nebo** treatment block. In addition, Bear Creek and Hungry Mother Creek have been designated by VDWR as a "Threatened and Endangered Water" for the state listed Tennessee dace and intersects the **Nebo** treatment block. Therefore, DCR recommends coordination with VDWR, Virginia's regulatory authority for the management and protection of these species to ensure compliance with protected species legislation.

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 804-371-2708. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



S. Rene' Hypes
Natural Heritage Project Review Coordinator

Cc: Ernie Aschenbach, VDWR
Wil Orndorff, DCR-Karst