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Title:

Comments: We are writing to comment on the Somerset Integrated Resources Project (IRP) as Somerset property owners who share boundary lines with the Project Area

In Somerset VT we have taxation without representation thanks to Governor Phil Scott and now we have the Somerset Integrated Resources Project (IRP)

The nearly 71,000 acre Somerset project area includes National Forest, state, town, and private lands located primarily in Somerset, VT.

Why is it no one in Somerset VT was involved in any part of "the collaborative process"?

Who is it the Forest Service staff was working closely with in Somerset, VT?

The answer to that is easy, it was NO ONE.

Was it Governor Phil Scott's appointed supervisor? Nope.

Maybe the Forest Service staff was working closely with people from Mount Snow or cross country skiers wanting to backcountry ski near Mount Snow?

I've read a lot of comments from people wanting a four season hut, new trails for hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing along with three special back country zones just for cross country skiers?

In fact, I've read more comments wanting these new special just for hiking, mountain biking and cross country skiing trails/areas than I've seen in the area cumulatively over the past 30+ years.

Why should any money be spent to build special trails just for cross country skiers?

Why should any money be spent building three back country zones close to Mount Snow just for "back country skiing?"

If any back country zones are going to be built they should be for everyone to use just like snowmobile trails.

Any sort of back country zone should be for skiers, snow snowshoers and snowmobilers!

Any new trails or special areas being built should be for everyone!

Why close trails that thousands of people use every year especially when no money needs to be spent for there continued use?

At first glance it looks like these new backcountry trails could create a substantial economic benefit to Mount Snow and Mount Snow Trails?

How does reducing the amount of trails and proposing a project that would greatly impact snowmobiling in the area along with the economic sustainability of the small businesses in the area?

How does reducing and closing snowmobile trails increase recreation and scenery viewing opportunities, and or

improve trail and road networks?

How does building special areas for a special few cross country skiers increase recreation and scenery viewing opportunities for everyone?

Timber access requires construction of haul roads, most of which would follow existing woods roads, trails, or existing snowmobile trails.

All of the improvements needed to log should be embraced and used by all, by hikers, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, and even the very very few cross country skiers in the area.

All the new temporary road construction should be embraced and incorporated into new trails, to be used by everyone.

The Town of Somerset VT requests to enter into a Road Usage Agreement in regard to logging operations or other truck movement of equipment and materials across Town Roads.

Land Owners of Somerset VT