



54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
Tel. 603.224.9945
Fax 603.228.0423
info@forestsociety.org
www.forestsociety.org

June 5, 2015

Commissioner Jeffrey Rose
NH Department of Resources & Economic Development
172 Pembroke Road
PO Box 1856
Concord, NH 03302-1856

Dear Commissioner Rose:

I write on behalf of the Forest Society's Board of Trustees to share our concerns about the draft decision you announced April 16, 2015 regarding the proposed ski expansion at Mount Sunapee State Park. We appreciate having the opportunity to provide additional feedback to our comments delivered at the May 5 hearing.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests asks you to pay particular attention to the impacts that ski area expansion would have on the forest resource at Mount Sunapee. In January of this year DRED's Natural Heritage Bureau released an addendum to its initial ecological survey of Mount Sunapee's West Bowl forests which identified (for the first time) that the summit and slopes of Mount Sunapee host a 486 acre "exemplary natural community system" of two forest communities. This exemplary system includes land directly in the project area of the proposed expansion, which would be disturbed if the project were to move forward as proposed. The viability of this exemplary natural community is of particular concern to the Forest Society, and we urge you to ensure that any final decision on the proposed expansion is consistent with the laws that protect that resource.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Jane A. Difley, President/Forester