

April 12, 2022

Debra Kaczowski
Land Use Planning Commission
43 Lakeview Street
PO Box 1107
Greenville, ME 04441

RE: DP 3639-F, REDEVELOPMENT OF BIG MOOSE SKI RESORT

Dear Ms. Kaczowski:

Big Lake Development LLC would like to provide the following update in response to a request from Maine Inland Fish & Wildlife to provide a Bicknell's Thrush construction avoidance plan associated with the potential need to construct the zipline within the recommended avoidance period for work within identified Bicknell's Thrush habitat.

Per previous correspondence, the primary goal would be to avoid any construction during the period of May 1 through August 1 that corresponds with the site selection, nest building and incubation period. As stated in this correspondence, it may be difficult to complete all construction activity in the area prior to the return of the Bicknell's Thrush based upon typical snowpack and the ability to install foundations in this early season window.

To limit impacts and create a scenario that encourages nest selection in adjacent areas, we would complete the limited area of clearing during the winter months (January through March) in a period in which the Bicknell's Thrush are not present. As soon as possible, late March to early April, excavation and form installation would be completed. Concrete pouring would follow as quickly as possible with the intent to have it completed prior to May 1. As the critical period relative to noise and disturbance is generally reported to be during nest selection and building, mating and early incubation, the intent will be to generally avert nest selection in this immediate area as it will be disturbed and continuously utilized and would be not a desirable nest location.

Should it appear that the later stages of the foundation installation (concrete pouring) would extend beyond the May 1 date, a regular monitoring program, managed by Tetra Tech, would be employed, beginning in early May, to confirm the presence or absence of Bicknell's Thrush in the area of the clearing and its immediate surroundings. Depending upon the results of this monitoring, late stage foundation installation activities would be altered to minimize impacts to a potential nest site in the immediate vicinity. The range of these actions would be dependent upon the presence of a nest in the immediate area and could include rerouting access to the foundation site or other actions that may be recommended based upon actual nest location. These actions would be reviewed with MIFW prior to any further action if a nest location is observed in the immediate vicinity.

As stated previously, the goal will be to avoid work associated with the zipline foundation between May 1 and August 1.

We look forward to your review and response.

Please contact Matthew Dieterich (207) 817-5410, matthew.dieterich@sewall.com if you have questions or require assistance.

Sincerely,

JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY



Matthew Dieterich
Executive Vice President

