



Keith Thompson
Chittenden County Forester
111 West Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Telephone: 802-879-5694

Bill Crenshaw
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
111 West Street
Essex Jct, VT 05452

October 30, 2012

Dear Bill,

On behalf of the Town of Hinesburg I am requesting a temporary special use permit to use the northern field edge of Hidden Meadow on the Copp Welch WMA in Hinesburg, Vermont. If granted the northern field edge (15' width +/-) will be used as a logging access to transport logs using a forwarder/tractor setup and or a small crawler from portions of the Town Forest to the landing located near the Gilman Road parking lot. Access to this portion of the field would be valuable because less than 100' to the north of the eastern corner of the meadow, on the Hinesburg Town Forest, an eroding cut is immediately adjacent to the established skid trail. It is the belief of the Chittenden County forester that using the field instead of the skid trail will significantly reduce the risk of exacerbating the erosion problem or water quality issues at the eroding cut and allow for the crossing of a shallow drainage that parallels the northern property boundary of the WMA at the ideal location or, avoid it altogether. The removal of a minimal number trees less than 10" in diameter near the property boundary may be necessary establish the access in to the Town Forest Property where it will have the least impact on water resources and retention trees (roost trees, mast trees, etc).

It is expected that the logging work will begin to occur around December 1st, 2012. Use of this access will likely begin several weeks after this date since significant work to the east of Hidden Meadow will be completed before its use is necessary. Given the equipment being used, relatively level terrain, the extreme care used by the operator and ability to smooth and restore access trails and roads on an ongoing basis, and requirement of suitably dry or frozen conditions for use of the trail, it will be very easy for the logging operation to restore the field edge to a grassy condition suitable for recreational use and/or nesting habitat prior to June 1, 2013. At the completion of the job the access trail would be smoothed where ruts are created and seeded in the spring with conservation mix where bare soil is exposed.

I, Keith Thompson, the Chittenden County Forester will be providing oversight for the job. Bill Torrey of Bolton is expected to be conducting the logging. The harvest plan is not yet developed but it must be approved by Scott Darling of Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Gretchen Alexander of the DEC, the Town Forest Committee on behalf of the Town of Hinesburg and Dan Kilborn of the Vermont Land Trust prior to implementation. It is the intention of this harvest to clear trail obstructions caused by a summer wind event on the Town Forest property while enhancing Indiana Bat roosting habitat and promoting timber production potential on the site while maintaining water quality. Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Keith Thompson