**Section 3:**

**Q1: What is the habitat of the Northern bog lemming?**

**A1:** The Northern bog lemming habitat consists of alpine sedge meadows, krummholz, spruce-fir forest with dense herbaceous and mossy ground cover, acidic wet meadows, and mossy stream-sides that are at or above 1,000 feet elevation in the western mountain and northern areas of Maine.

**Q2: How were the Northern bog lemming field surveys conducted?**

**A2:** The Northern bog lemming field surveys were conducted using meandering transects within delineated streams and wetlands. A team of two biologists investigated areas with Northern bog lemming habitat characteristics, looking for green scat, latrines, and evenly cut graminoid vegetation along well-defined runways. Habitat documentation was done using an iPad equipped with the ESRI Field Maps application.

**Q3: When were the Northern bog lemming field surveys conducted in 2021?**

**A3:** The Northern bog lemming field surveys were performed on September 27–29, 2021.

**Q4: Were any suitable Northern bog lemming habitats found in the Project Area?**

**A4:** Yes, within the Project Area, two wetlands, Unnamed Wetland 01 (UNWL-01) and Unnamed Wetland 02 (UNWL-02), were noted as having good habitat for Northern bog lemming. However, despite extensive searches, no signs of Northern bog lemmings were observed in these wetlands.

**Q5: Were any Northern bog lemming signs found in the streams within the Project Area?**

**A5:** No streams with suitable habitat for Northern bog lemming were observed within the Project Area during the surveys.

**Q6: What is the conclusion of the 2021 Northern bog lemming survey at the Moosehead Lake Ski Resort Project Area?**

**A6:** Based on the results of the 2021 Northern bog lemming survey, it is concluded that the species is not likely to be present in the Moosehead Lake Ski Resort Project Area, as no Northern bog lemming signs were observed during the surveys.

**Section 4:**

**Q1: What is the habitat preference for the Bicknell's thrush during the breeding season?**

**A1:** Bicknell's thrush prefers high-elevation islands across the Northeast United States, specifically in naturally disturbed thickets of red spruce and balsam fir.

**Q2: Where does the Bicknell's thrush's breeding range extend into Canada?**

**A2:** The Bicknell's thrush breeding range extends north into Canada through portions of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Gaspé Peninsula, to the Laurentians at the southeastern edge of the Canadian Shield, where the species remains restricted to high altitudes on mountain tops and plateaus.

**Q3: How is the Bicknell's thrush categorized in terms of its conservation status?**

**A3:** The Bicknell's thrush is listed as threatened in Canada and internationally vulnerable. It is also a Species of Special Concern in Maine.

**Q4: What survey methodology was used to assess the presence of Bicknell's thrush in the Project Area?**

**A4:** Point count locations within the Project Area were surveyed using the Mountain Birdwatch Protocol, and the surveys were conducted in fair weather conditions. The survey methodology involved conducting two surveys, two weeks apart in June, and all bird species observed visually or aurally were counted.

**Q5: How many point count locations were ultimately selected for the Bicknell's thrush survey within the Project Area?**

**A5:** Six point count locations were selected for the survey.

**Q6: Were Bicknell's thrush observed during the surveys in the Project Area?**

**A6:** Yes, Bicknell's thrush was observed on both survey dates, and multiple individuals were observed at specific point count locations.

**Q7: What other bird species were observed during the surveys, and were any of them of special concern in Maine?**

**A7:** A total of 27 bird species were observed during the surveys. Among them, eight of the 11 target Mountain Bird Watch species were observed, and three bird species of special concern in Maine were also recorded. These species include Bicknell's thrush, black and white warbler, and white-throated sparrow.

**Q8: What was the methodology used to present the counts recorded during the surveys?**

**A8:** The maximum number of individuals observed by species across all survey intervals for each point count location was used to represent the count for that location. This method ensured that data was presented as a "simple count" over the 20-minute period without double counting between intervals.

**Q9: Were any incidental observations of Bicknell's thrush made outside of official survey time?**

**A9:** Yes, on the evening of June 2, multiple Bicknell's thrushes were observed across the top of Moose Mountain near the top of the lift line. A period of high-frequency singing and calling was noted, which is characteristic of Bicknell's thrush behavior. Additionally, on the morning of June 3, a Canada warbler was observed downslope of point count location 5 in an area of dense mid-successional mixed forest near the lift line.

Section 5:

**Q1: What is the preferred habitat for the Northern Spring Salamander?**

**A1:** The Northern Spring Salamander prefers clear, cold, mountain streams that are at or above 500 feet in elevation. They are typically found in moderate to fast gradient first or second order streams and can also occur in larger third-order streams and rivers with similar habitat characteristics.

**Q2: What were the methods used for the Northern Spring Salamander field surveys?**

**A2:** The field surveys involved a team of two biologists walking each stream within the Project Area, searching under stones and rocks alongside and within each delineated stream. The survey was conducted in conjunction with northern bog lemming surveys, and the biologists used polarized sunglasses to reduce glare and improve visibility of aquatic organisms.

**Q3: When were the Northern Spring Salamander field surveys conducted in 2021?**

**A3:** The surveys were performed on September 27–29, 2021, in conjunction with other surveys.

**Q4: Were any Northern Spring Salamanders observed in the Project Area?**

**A4:** One Northern Spring Salamander was detected below a dam on Unnamed Stream 04 (UNST-04), located on the western boundary of the Project Area. Based on the results of the survey, the species is present in UNST-04 and not likely to be present in other streams within the Project Area.

**Q5: How many streams were searched during the survey, and what was the total search time and length?**

**A5:** A total of 23 streams were searched over 3 field days, with a total search time of 20 hours and 30 minutes and a total search length of 18,486 feet.

**Q6: Were there any incidental salamander species observed in the Project Area's streams?**

**A6:** Yes, three incidental salamander species were observed in nearly every stream that was searched in the Project Area. These species include the Eastern Red-backed Salamander, Northern Dusky Salamander, and Northern Two-lined Salamander.

**Q7: Were the surveyed streams all considered good habitat for Northern Spring Salamanders?**

**A7:** Most of the surveyed streams were noted as having good habitat for Northern Spring Salamanders, characterized by clear, cold streams with fast gradients, underlain by coarse substrate, and bordered by hardwood or mixed wood forests. However, some of the streams were mostly dry at the time of the survey.