To whom it may concern,

The issues with the circumstances surrounding the permit application for private enterprise, for-profit venture has several areas of concern. For profit venture on public land, locations of proposed hut placements, conflict with other user groups with well-established history of use, paying customers of the hut companies expectations contrasting with other user groups, and hut companies' patrons not contributing to the trail grooming program that the snowmobile community pays for in the registration fees annually are all areas that bring substantial concern.

I personally do not agree with allowing a for-profit venture relying solely on recreation that does not contribute a measure of benefit to the public-on-public lands. Other than permit fees any sales taxes collected for service, any benefit to public rests solely on those that patronize the companies whereas typical recreational activities are at the effort and expense of those that recreate for their own personal needs. Not to say that there are not already guide services or other for-profit ventures already in place and operation in the public lands but having a physical structure, despite being temporary, in nature directly in wilderness areas that solely benefit the companies operating them is an issue.

Of major importance is the proposed locations, significantly the Aderson Watson location. Ideally setting up huts in already established winter recreation areas specifically sno-parks makes a practical sense however these areas are typically remote, with single traffic lane roads and primarily utilized by the snowmobile community for winter recreation. They are open to all who wish to utilize it assuming that they have the proper sno-park passes and discovery pass if required. The major problem is the groomed trails that originate from these locations are solely funded by the snowmobile community as part of the registration fees. Nothing in the hut proposal allows for a fair contribution to compensate the sole paying user group. Moreover, several members of the snowmobile community including myself volunteer and donate to road and trail maintenance to keep up the access that our community enjoys.

I have a significant concern about the conflict between user groups that will likely arise as customers are occupying the proposed huts. There will be occasions where snowmobiles are operated at all times of day and night and with the hut’s proximity to the trailheads and sno-parks there is likely an incendiary situation brewing as the hut occupants will definitely be disturbed by vehicle and snowmobile traffic in and out of the sno-parks.

I strongly believe any proposal that allows for any structure that does not benefit the general public on public lands be categorically denied. Moreover there needs to be involvement with state government to give due consideration to the ways in which the grooming program is compensated by a for profit user group if this application is approved.

I wish to thank the forest service for the opportunity to have a public discussion and the ability for comment on the issues.

Respectfully submitted.

John Adams