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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

My husband and I are longtime outdoorspeople and advocates for the responsible use of outdoor space. We regularly hike, camp, rock climb, bike, snowboard, and backcountry tour in Vermont, as well as spend money on hotels, restaurants, and other activities while we visit.

I'm writing in support of the Vermont Huts Association's application for a special use permit in the proposed action for the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project to construct, operate, and maintain a four-season hut within the footprint of the former lodge that was destroyed by fire near South Pond.

A hut in this location takes advantage of existing infrastructure and is ideally situated to host users of the trails mentioned below, creating a new point of access to the outdoors for trail users of all ages and abilities.

Additionally, I support the USDA Forest Service's proposal to create 34.9 miles of trail through new construction, relocation, and designation for mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing. These trails will greatly enhance the ability of the public to enjoy this incredible public resource that is the Green Mountain National Forest.

These projects will provide critical trail connectivity for both the Velomont Trail and Catamount Trail and service numerous user groups.

I also support the addition of 3.1 miles of existing Long Trail to the National Forest Trail System as part of the pending South Pond acquisition.

Vermont is a world class outdoor destination, and it's our hope to permanently relocate in the next five years from Connecticut to Vermont. These projects would be one more enticement to make us Vermont residents.

Thanks for your consideration.

Stacey and Rob Kennedy

Burlington, CT

The two photos are of me enjoying a maple creeme in Manchester, and my husband splitboarding on backcountry trails.