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Comments: Good Morning I am writing in regard to Peabody West Integrated Resource Project #55659. Although I no longer live in the Mount Washington Valley recreating and working in the Peabody River drainage has been a very important part of my life. Skiing, Hiking, Fishing, and working for 6 years with the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Based on the literature I have read on this project I am concerned about the plan to decommission shelters at Hermit Lake. I would like to strongly advocate that any roofed structure that is removed from Hermit Lake be replaced in kind. I do not consider adding tent platforms to be an adequate response to any shelter removals. The "Adirondack" shelters at hermit lake are historic and provide a unique experience for sub alpine winter camping in New England. Access to year round toilets/ outhouses should be preserved. Any work done at the site needs to take into account the historical context and cultural significance that Hermit Lake represents. This impact stretches beyond new england, this site is important to the national history of backcountry skiing.

On the skiing topic I think letting The Granite Backcountry Alliance cut glades in Peabody Drainage is a big mistake. I would like to see a full environmental impact survey done on any proposed cutting by this organization. The glades they have cut in the Bartlett and Randolph have increased use to areas that saw little traffic by a large numbers of visitors. The organization is big on putting in glades but does little to ensure that their is adequate infrastructure behind their projects.

A good example of this is the fact that backcountry skiers with a wide range of abilities use there glades. That is great that more people are using human powered recreation. However they are doing nothing to mitigate the increased demands they are placing on NH's already stressed Search and Rescue resources. The John Sherburne and Gulf of Slides trails are both equipped with first aid caches. To my knowledge not one GBA site has any first aid resources. From what I have observed many of the people who use these glades are novices who learned about the sites through social media. They are not properly equipped and lack the knowledge to execute a self rescue. I know of several instances of people breaking legs in GBA terrain. This comes with the territory of backcountry skiing. If GBA is allowed to cut something needs to be done to make up for any potential burden placed on search and rescue resources.

I am also worried about people seeing Granite Backcountry Glades and not going through the proper channels before cutting their own glades. I know illegal glading currently takes place in the WMNF. I do not think the establishment of GBA glades has done anything to improve this situation. If anything it has made it worse. Backcountry Ski lines are in someways a finite resource once the fresh snow gets skied off people are left looking for more which often causes gladed sites to receive further unauthorized cutting. Who's going to patrol this the USFS? How's that working on the Wildcat Slide and all the other illegal sites in the forest? As a hunter if I cut a few branches from my treestand to create a shooting lane I am in violation of the law. Yet Granite Backcountry can lead and army of inexperienced volunteers up a hillside with chainsaws and loppers and thats ok?

My last point on this subject is from their beginning Granite Backcountry Members have stated the goal to cut glades on Mt. Washington. I am not sure if they are going to try and make this move at this point or not but right now skier traffic on the east side of the mountain is concentrated to the areas above treeline, The Gulf of Slides Trail, and The Sherburne. By adding more terrain traffic will just increase and not disperse. I could see this stressing wildlife and would like to see habitat and environmental impact studies if these glades were ever to be proposed.