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Comments: As the emergency management planner at ACRPC, I'm writing to express concerns over the proposed Silver Lake Hut, primarily due to its number of floors, potentially high number of inexperienced visitors, and the inclusion of a propane stove and fuel. We have mapped and analyzed fire department response times around the county, and found that to get to this location is at least a 25 minute response from either Ripton or Brandon, which is in addition to the time needed for volunteer firefighters getting to their stations and departing. That's a significant potential delay time in a carbon monoxide or structure fire call, especially in the winter. Like many parts of the national forest, this is one of the farthest points for first responders to reach and needs to be accounted for when introducing new construction and potentially novice users.

I hope that the hut construction will meet all group-quarters standards for exits, smoke and CO alarms as well as prominent warning signs for visitors. Please coordinate with the Town of Leicester, which provides fire department coverage through a contact with Brandon, to make sure that responders know how to access the site. Ideally there will be introductory walk-throughs and regular training exercises organized with the Ripton and Brandon fire departments and Middlebury Technical Rescue team to provide service to hut visitors once it is constructed.

Thank you for your efforts and work on this- I know you have likely received quite a few comments in the course of this project!