

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2023 1:27:18 AM

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Comments: To all the good folk working on this,

I stayed with my daughters in the Overmountain Shelter in summer of 2013, and then camped there with my brother during my thru hike in autumn of 2021. Could definitely see the deteriorated condition of the structure. So understand the need to address that.

The proposal to remove it and replace it with a picnic pavilion lacks utility in my mind for the following reasons:

1. Picnic pavilions are not much use to backpackers who most need shelter in inclement weather, not shade from the sun.
2. Admittedly I haven't done a survey, but both times I was there I did not see any day hikers at the site. It doesn't seem like a natural day hiking destination, as much of its appeal is the wonderful sunrise and set light, rather than the grand vistas of the Roan Highlands.
3. The shelter seems somewhat iconic, I've seen it in many hiking publications.
4. The shelter is a magical place to wake up (or drift off to sleep) just contemplating the view from the safety of 3 walls and a roof.
5. With all due respect, saying Stan Murray shelter can serve the same purpose is akin to saying a motorcycle can take the place of a school bus because they both have pneumatic tires. It is small and the water source is iffy at best.

For the above reasons, and others I am sure will be supplied by interested parties, I would suggest that the picnic pavilion be dispensed with and either the site developed just for camping, or more ideally, that the barn be deconstructed with an eye to reusing the material for a new structure of similar size, shape and orientation constructed in a more robust fashion. If the latter cannot be done then use the funds which would have been spent on the picnic pavilion to upsize the Stan Murray shelter.

Thank you much for your consideration of these comments and more importantly all your good works.

Henry Latimer