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First name: Dave

Last name: Scott

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for your efforts to tackle this topic. There are many stakeholders, opinions and details to consider.

I can see both sides of the topic but there really are more than just two options. Others say they are contractors and that the building could be repaired. That should be considered. This barn is very iconic for this part of the country and notice that they are no longer being built. Modern metal buildings are now the norm.

In the diversity of assets in the national forest this is to be recognized as one of those. I believe the US Forest Service's mission is to manage our forests for the multitude of society's benefits. This facility could serve many users. It is a unique asset and could be a destination for overnight hikers other than AT thru hikers (youth groups, etc.). Especially at times other than the annual NOBO bubble. How many other places can a group go and stay in a traditional southern barn? And time in nature, especially for our youth, has for 100+ years been a concern of society.

I'd encourage any new construction to use natural materials and traditional methods. I've seen new construction at national parks and in the national forests that use glue-laminated wood beams and split rib or face concrete block or other methods/materials. But I've also been to Old Faithful Inn and try to watch for the facilities built by the CCC. But cost is also a consideration. I also think it is a good idea to salvage and reuse what materials can be used if the barn is taken down.

Is the construction labor intensive? Can you piggy-back off funds/programs for training of incarcerated people? Check out the construction photos for "Camp Rotary" near Glasgow KY where the sheriff's office has worked with them to construct cabins.

This location is near a road so there is possibility of service & maintenance. At a minimum this could be a privy. We could consider a location with attendant, volunteer (senior) or concessionaire. (Many details to work out/consider.) How well does the facility at Charit Creek function? What are the possibilities of a hostel or site with supported services or some other possibility?

And removal of the facility is not always bad. (But at the loss of an iconic structure.). Has there been an assessment of shelters in this area of the AT and if one was to be constructed, what are the high priority sites? The goal of the AT was a respite for modern people from the modern world. I hope that the Forest Service supports this goal and is looking for opportunities to enhance this use of our forests. Thank you! DS