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First name: Candice

Last name: Lancaster

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a North Carolina native, and avid backpacker, I think this shelter and privy should be preserved. It's an iconic landmark on the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina, and an excellent location for new backpackers traveling from Carvers Gap to 19e (a very common section of the AT for beginners).

Not only is it one of the most unique shelters along the trail, it's also in a place that often gets heavy snowfall during the beginning of thru hiking season. Because of its size, it allows a lot of hikers to take shelter here in adverse weather conditions, and even pitch tents inside, providing additional warmth in the first quarter of the year.

The next shelter along the trail (NOBO) only houses up to six hikers. Especially during the bubble, that simply isn't enough for this area. The next shelter doesn't provide a privy either, leading more day hikers and backpackers to practice poor on-trail waste management. While it's ideal for everyone to LNT, privies, like the one at Overmountain shelter, provide easier access to do so. Removing the adjacent privy makes no sense at all, in terms of managing human waste on trail.

It's my hope that the NFS and ATC will reconsider the removal of the Overmountain shelter and its privy. After all, who wouldn't want to take their morning #2 with a view like that?

Thanks for your consideration.