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Organization:

Title:

Comments: You want to tear down the barn and put picnic tables up? It seems like the atc just wants to limit how many people can come out and enjoy the beauty of their state. It seems cheaper to reset the barn and reinforce the main supports rather than pay all the money to tear it down, haul it out, and build something completely new. And it could all be done by volunteers, then the atc wouldn't have to worry about the money. It's absurd the put a roofed picnic table on top of an exposed mountain with no walls to block any wind and weather. Why not build a new barn instead of a picnic table? And a new privy when there's not one at any shelter for miles in either direction. Who's going to hike all that way for a picnic? The Clyde smith shelter barely fits 6 people, and the atc knows that groups of 20 or more will crowd up the Clyde smith shelter in the spring and summer. Everyone's just going to use the picnic area as a shelter anyway, and the whole time will wonder why the atc thought it would be of any help to build a roof with no walls. It very much seems like the atc wants to limit the amount of people who can enjoy nature, and for some reason thinks spending a bunch of money to build picnic tables at high elevation exposed to wind and weather is a good idea. How will picnic tables benefit anyone except the guy who came up with the idea? This decision isn't for hikers, it's to keep hikers from even being there. No one in there right mind would think covered picnic tables several miles down trail is a good idea when all hikers are looking for is a shelter that has enough space for them, which is rare if you haven't been on the trail in recent years. This isn't a state park where we're just gonna walk back to the car, hikers need cover from the rain and the wind. If the atc wants to blow money tearing the barn down, why not build a large shelter there to replace it. If you end up building an expensive covered picnic table out in the middle of nowhere, it's just going to be used as a shelter anyway and everyone will wonder who in the world thought this was a good idea. The 20+ hikers that would congregate at that barn will now just clog up other shelters with no privys. Honestly the atc is moving backwards with this decision, and it really just seems like someone who doesn't backpack thought, oh picnic tables would be nice, without any consideration of what hikers need. No one needs a picnic, they need walls to keep out rain, they need larger shelters cause there's always 10 or more people, they need privys to limit impact. This is just going to lead to more people 'stealth camping' off the trail, leaving a larger impact on the environment than before when there was room enough at shelters to fit them.