

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2023 9:30:27 PM

First name: Daniel

Last name: Batten

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mr. Mattrick,

This comment is in regard to Section 3.7, Special Uses, of the Telephone Gap proposal, specifically the language about the "issuance of a special use permit to the Vermont Huts Association (VHA) to construct, operate, and maintain a hut to provide year-round public use by reservation... in a location north of South Pond." Multiple identical comments in this forum by the Vermont Hut Association raised my curiosity about this section of the proposal.

I oppose the issuance of a special use permit to the Vermont Huts Association for the purpose stated above. My takeaway on the VHA approach is that it is:

- inequitable, due to the use of a private reservation system not available to members of the public (in the \*public\* forest)
- exclusionary, due to the ability of customers to reserve an entire hut and leave many beds unused
- destructive and polluting, due to the damage caused to the forest to build a hut and the access to it, as well as the expected use of propane to heat it
- overly extravagant (\$290k for a "hut"?) and out of character for the Vermont wilderness

It's pretty clear that VHA wants private benefits from the public commons. The Green Mountain National Forest is not a luxury AirBnB that should be financed by taxpayers. Please remove this section from the TGIRP proposal.

Thank you,  
Daniel Batten