

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/29/2024 7:25:56 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

My husband and I are Connecticut residents who frequently recreate in Vermont and support the local economies through overnight trips where we stay in hotels, eat and drink in restaurants and bars, and generally participate in the tourism economy that surrounds snowboarding (backcountry and at resorts), camping, mountain biking and hiking. We're incredibly excited about the continued development of huts and trails for these purposes.

I'm writing in support of the U.S. Forest Services' proposal to provide sustainable recreation opportunities within the Telephone Gap IRP area. In particular, I support the 34.9 miles of trail construction, relocation, and designation managed for mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing, projects that will provide critical trail connectivity for various user groups, including those on the Velomont Trail and Catamount Trail. I also support the addition of 3.1 miles of existing Long Trail to the National Forest Trail System at the pending South Pond acquisition.

Additionally, I support the Vermont Huts Association's application for a special use permit to construct, operate, and maintain a four-season hut within the footprint of the former lodge that was destroyed by a fire near South Pond. A hut in this location takes advantage of existing infrastructure and is ideally situated to host users of the trails mentioned above, creating a new point of access to the outdoors for trail users of all ages and abilities.

Stacey and Rob Kennedy