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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment about the Temporary Winter Shelter proposal.

I would like to start off with saying that the public does not have sufficient information to make a well informed decision based on the scoping letter provided. My concern spans these four points:

1. Usage: it is not clear who the intended users of this hut are and how they are supposed to reserve the hut for use. Would the hut be open to the public via a lottery reservation system? Or would it be first-come-first-serve. I do notice that the overnight huts "would provide reservable overnighting facilities operated by three private commercial entities", but it is not clear how this is going to be managed. I think this is crucial information for the public to make a well-informed comment. Given that private commercial entities may lean towards a capitalistic approach to maximize their business goals, this can potentially "gatekeep" these shelters from being used by the public.

2. User group conflicts: Given the hut will be shared with motorized as well as non-motorized users, what is the proposed solution to resolve conflicts that would arise when different parties would like to access the hut?

3. Environmental impact: It is extremely important to understand the environmental impact of winter shelters given that we have a fragile ecosystem which must be preserved for years to come. The letter mentions that the shelters "would involve little to no ground disturbance", but this is not sufficient information to determine the environmental impact caused by building these shelters as well as managing resources and waste produced by groups staying overnight. I think a well defined plan on how to tackle human waste, how water and firewood for overnight use will be managed - is essential while making a decision about the winter shelters.

4. Usability: Has there been a user study or similar research done to identify that these are areas that are being used heavily in the winter to warrant a significant investment to be made by building these winter shelters? This needs to be the basis to determine where to build the shelters. If these shelters are going to be along trails that are less frequently used in the winter due to avalanche hazards, there wouldn't be sufficient requirement to have a winter shelter at that location.

To summarize, I strongly feel that there isn't sufficient information provided in the scoping letter for the public to make a well informed decision about the installation of winter shelters which has a significant impact, good or potentially bad on the forest ecosystem. Therefore, I would strongly recommend the forest service to consider providing more information before proceeding with any sort of plan regarding the winter shelters.

Thank you!