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First name: Quinn

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

I'm writing in support of the proposed South Pond Hut Special Use Permit and Project Specific Forest Plan Amendment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

An ADA-accessible hut in this location takes advantage of existing infrastructure and is ideally situated to host users of the Long Trail, Catamount Trail, and future Velomont Trail, creating a new point of access to the outdoors for trail users of all ages and abilities.

The south pond sites vast natural beauty and sweeping views should be showcased and accessible for everyone. The proposed hut location takes advantage of pre existing infrastructure at an already disturbed site, minimizing the construction impacts while increasing the safety and sustainability for all trail users in this remote area.

I support the improvement of trail infrastructure within the Lefferts Pond Area of the Green Mountain National Forest, Middlebury Ranger District, Town of Chittenden, Rutland County, Vermont for all outdoor enthusiasts.

The Lefferts Pond Area is ripe with opportunity. A pre-existing mountain bike loop signed around the reservoir and advertised by the Green Mountain National Forest is an embarrassment to the area's mountain biking offerings and potential. This pre-existing bike loop should be connected with a bikeable trail to south pond and an improved trail along the reservoir's loop; a lack of water drainage along the trail inhibits accessibility.

Continuous parking concerns at Lefferts Pond Area should not hinder sensible trail infrastructure improvements. A south pond hut will only increase the numbers of trail users at Lefferts Pond Area, and improved parking access should be considered alongside this proposal.

I support the proposed ADA-accessible, four season hut at South Pond which would increase Vermont's outdoor recreation accessibility for a diverse range of trail users of all ages and abilities. Most importantly, I support the improvement of trail infrastructure within the Lefferts Pond Area of the Green Mountain National Forest, Middlebury Ranger District, Town of Chittenden, Rutland County, Vermont for all outdoor enthusiasts.

-Quinn Curtis