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Comments: I support the proposed trail connectivity improvements and SUP boundary adjustment. These projects occur in an already developed recreation corridor, improve safety and access, and make practical use of land affected by the Highway 9 realignment. From a land-use standpoint, they are logical and consistent with existing Nordic Center operations.

My feedback is focused on the proposed overnight hut.

I understand and appreciate the goal of providing a more accessible overnight experience for residents and visitors who do not have the skills or equipment to access traditional backcountry huts. There is real value in lowering barriers and introducing people to winter recreation in a controlled setting.

However, I encourage the Forest Service to consider the broader system-level effects of adding entry-level hut infrastructure in Summit County. While this hut may serve a different demographic than traditional backcountry hut users, increased exposure to hut-based recreation can incrementally increase demand across the existing hut network over time. Even small increases in participation can compound in a region where reservations, trailheads, and winter recreation capacity are already heavily constrained.

This is not an argument against the hut itself. Rather, it is a request that planning consider cumulative recreation pressure beyond the immediate project footprint. Specific considerations that may help include:

- *Monitoring use patterns and reservation demand across nearby hut systems following implementation
- *Evaluating parking, trail congestion, and winter access impacts as participation grows
- *Coordinating with existing hut systems to understand potential spillover demand and operational implications

The proposal is reasonable in scale and location, and I support expanding inclusive access to outdoor experiences. My request is simply that long-term recreation demand and cumulative impacts be treated as part of the project's management framework, even if the physical footprint is modest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.