

Date submitted (Eastern Standard Time): 11/30/2020 11:52:40 AM

First name: Ed

Last name: Clayton

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I write to endorse a Region 8 project: TRL-080814-FY-22-02 Southern Region Volunteer Center (Trails & Wilderness)

I am personally familiar with the volunteer center that will be rebuilt by this project. I have spent many summer weeks as a volunteer for a joint USFS / ATC partnership that undertakes major maintenance projects on the Appalachian Trail. I have also served many weeks over many years as a USFS volunteer. In both cases "home base" was the volunteer center that is proposed for a rebuild. My volunteer time - measuring many hundreds of hours would not have been possible had the volunteer center not been available. The present center is ideally located and is leveraged by partner groups to multiply the impact of their efforts in partnership with the USFS. The present center has served its purpose well but is in need of a rebuild in order to continue to be available to partner groups. I see the following strengths in this project: location of the center and availability of the site, leveraging of the the time spent by partner organizations, continuation of the partner relationships that are in place, and the outlook for future expansion of partnerships with a better volunteer center.