

Date submitted (Eastern Standard Time): 11/30/2020 5:36:53 PM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Gillespie

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Re: TRL-080814-FY-22-02 Southern Region Volunteer Center (Trails & Wilderness)

I write to express my gratitude for the proactive and stakeholder-engaged implementation the USDA Forest Service has pursued in implementing the Great American Outdoors Act (the Act). The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and our affiliated Maintaining Clubs were vocal advocates for the USDA Forest Service's inclusion in the Act and we could not be prouder of USDA's execution. I write further in strong support for the proposed improvements to the USDA Forest Services' (USFS) Southern Region Volunteer Center. ATC believes that restoration to the Southern Region Volunteer Center will not only promote long-term community engagement in shared stewardship of our exceptional Southern Region forests, but will promote outdoor recreation, volunteerism, and the economic vitality of rural communities in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. We respectfully request your support for the planned improvements to the USDA Forest Service Southern Region Volunteer Center.