Ski club will no longer maintain donated cabin after Forest Service makes it available to rent

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HAMILTON, Mont. — The Bitterroot Cross-Country Ski Club says it will no longer operate or maintain a cabin it donated to the U.S. Forest Service after agency officials put the cabin up for rent on a national reservation system.

Club members tell the Ravalli Republic (http://bit.ly/P7SU5d) that club members volunteered to build and maintain the cabin with the understanding it would remain free and open to the public during the winter.

The group says the agency's decision to rent the cabin violates the original agreement.

The group made its announcement last week, a few days after the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest supervisor officially made the cabin available for rent.

The group donated the cabin at Chief Joseph Pass to the Forest Service in 2001.

(Story distributed by The Associated Press)
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