

Mobile wooden houses for 'soft' tourism in mountain regions: addressing conflicts through fostering governance innovations

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Why mobile wooden houses?

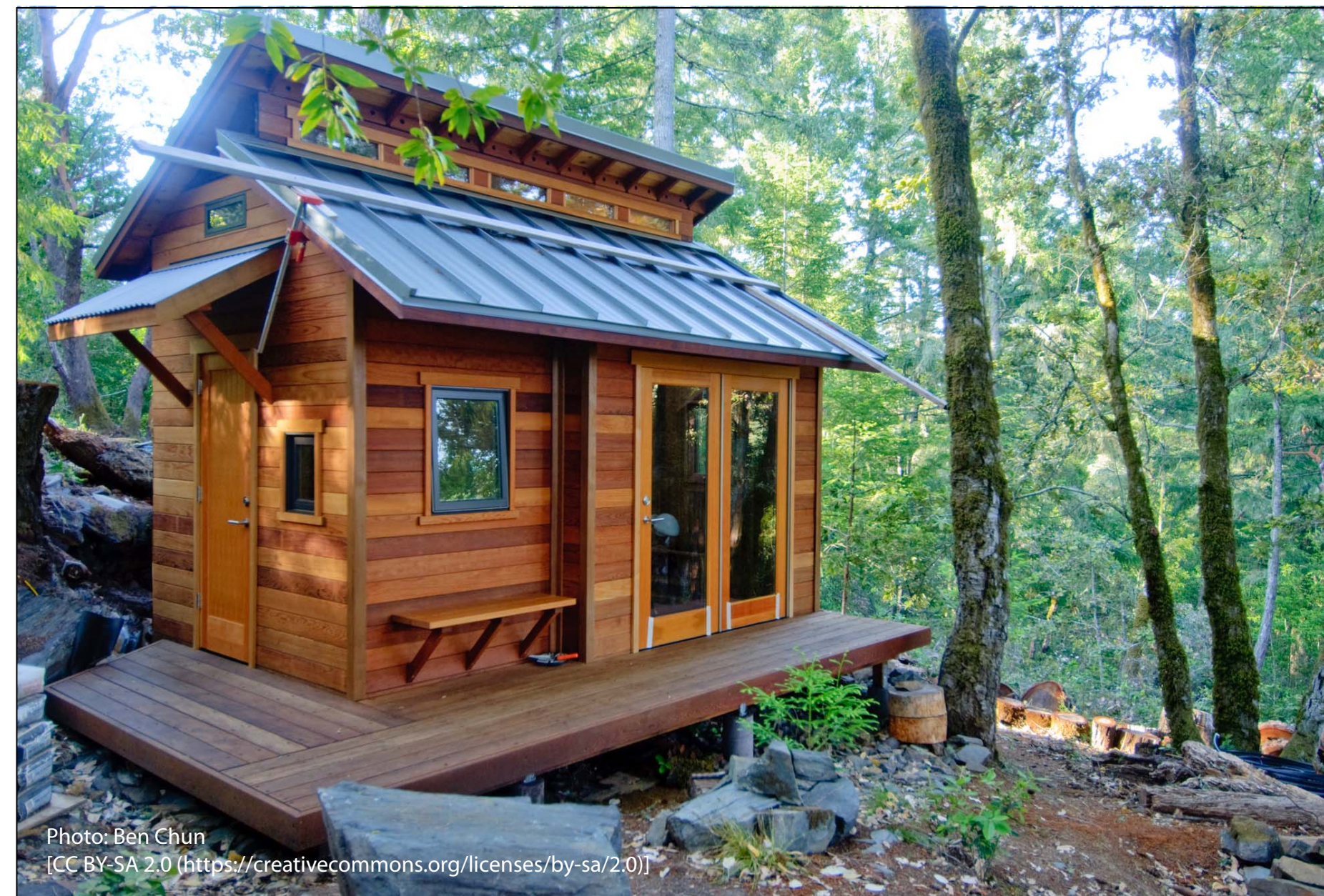
Mobile wooden houses allow tourists to enjoy a broader range of cultural ecosystem services (CES) in mountainous areas

- Strengthening tourism infrastructure in remote areas
- Chalets for the 'not-so-well-off-tourist'
- Houses can be set up according to seasonal needs (e.g., on a cycle/hiking trail in summer; near a ski resort in winter)
- Small-scale structures promote 'soft' tourism requiring little space and not impairing the soil (permanently)
- Directing visitors to new 'hot spots' and create 'romantic places of yearning' to experience CES



Synergies

- Ecological building, regional wood, and traditional craftsmanship
- Other regional craftsmen's activities can be included for equipping the houses (e.g., furniture, electricity, water)
- 'Nature- and wood-experience' for tourists making ecological wood construction known supra-regionally
- Regionality is integrated into tourism development, and tourism supports regional wood construction
- Promotion of sustainable forest management

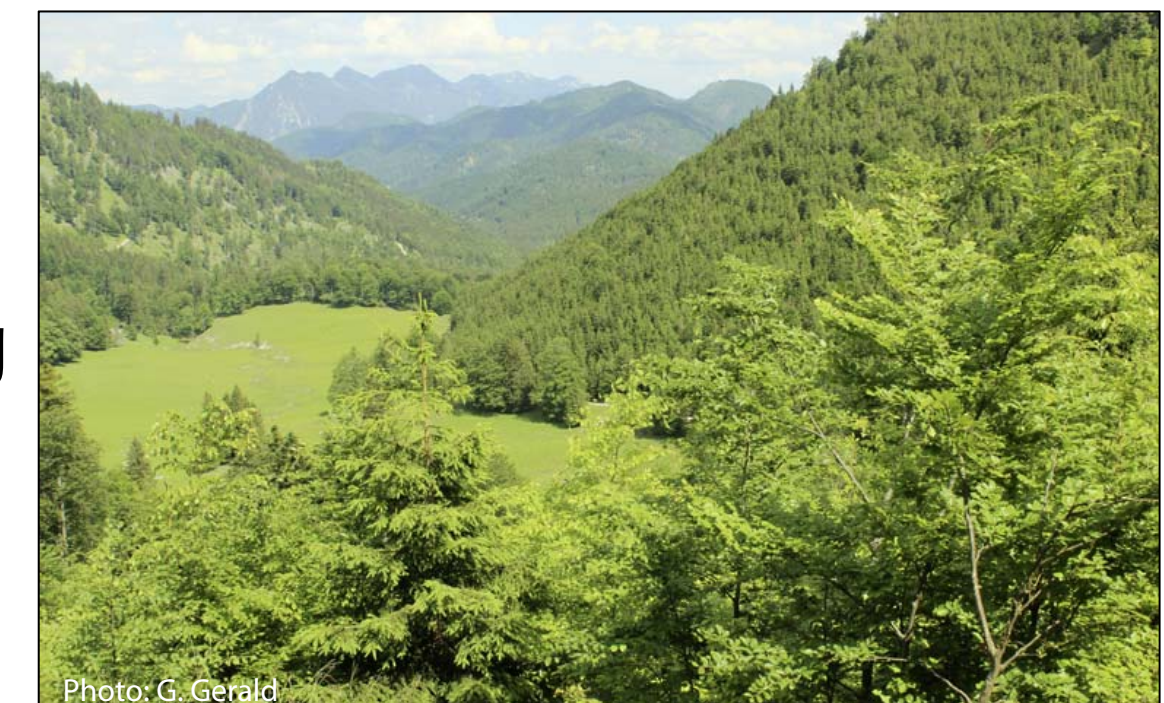


Trade-offs, conflicts, and limits

- Conflicts with environmental protection aims (e.g., in national parks) → bringing tourists to pristine spots where tourism-related construction has not been feasible before or was legally barred
- Many challenges related to the provisioning and/or disposing of water, garbage, cleaning, and food
- Missing reliable and consistent legal framework for these kind of mobile wooden houses:
 - 'Level of permanence'
 - Allowed in nature or landscape protection areas?
 - Accessibility, supply and disposal infrastructure

The Eisenwurzen region

- Border area of the provinces of Lower and Upper Austria and Styria, between northern part of *Kalkalpen* and northern Alpine foothills
- Today mainly forestry, agriculture, and – poorly developed – tourism
- Over 80% forest land cover in some municipalities (Austria: 47.2%), often integrated into small and medium-sized farms (*Waldbauern*)
- Wood extraction and processing traditionally important in the region, yet revenues are declining due to low timber prices
- National parks *Kalkalpen* and *Gesäuse*



InnoForEST: fostering governance innovations

- Supports the governance of viable innovations and a multi-actor network by building on pioneer policy tools and business models, by establishing new alliances, and by involving key stakeholders from forest and forest-related policy, administration, and business
- Network initiatives based on series of strategic workshops; function as protected spaces and means for knowledge exchange and learning
- *Eisenwurzen*: Stakeholders are exploring a broad diversity of high-value wood processing options (incl. mobile wooden houses)

For more information please visit our website: www.innoforest.eu



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