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Organization:

Title:

Comments: On every level presented my very large group of outdoor friends, entire family and I reject the Forest Service proposal to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter in Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, Utah County, Utah. I was a Boy Scout, Explorer and have spent decades under the waters, on the land and in the skies atop the mountains of many states and countries. Our wilderness is in deep trouble.

This "Blue Light Kmart Special" like Shelter is absolutely NOT a historic structure and should NOT be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). It is in layman's terms a crappy, almost completely falling apart affront to what we elders and our elders before us intended to save. It is no Mt. Rainier Lodge. That's for sure! It's concrete and cheap metal significantly detracts from the character of Mount Timpanogos Wilderness and has ZERO cultural, scenic, or historical significance. The Proposed Action reconstructing the Emerald Lake Shelter to similar specifications as existing and the proposed methods are absolutely a betrayal to the intentions of those of us who designed and passed the Wilderness Protection Acts in Washington, Nationally and internationally. WHO put you up to this??? Local packing companies?

As the Son of a Founding Sierra Club Member (my mom), Parent, Journalist, Teacher and Community Leader as Past President of the Olympia Fraternal Organization of Eagles, I have been working on environmental issues for over 50 years. I remember back when our rivers were burning, Great Lakes toxic pools and I am dead tired of corporate bullying in the name of profits for those who deserve none for poisoning our seas, air, food and lands. To that end, my family, all close friends and I insist you to immediately remove all financing or support for any proposal of inappropriate resurrection or construction of structures in wilderness areas.

It is disturbingly hypocritical of our Forest Service, any governmental agency and/or any commercial leadership to have access to 40 years of unquestionable, peer-reviewed documented evidence of harm and danger with development and overuse of forest areas yet to give commercial entities a pass on the true economic, environmental and health costs reckless management of our remaining wilderness areas. The impact of the astounding population growth in our state should give pause to any further denigration of the wilderness areas we have now.

This appears to be a complete legal and ethical violation of present laws and policies. Again, wilderness advocates must use precious resources and time to challenge these rather than fighting other corporate and development or acquiring protection of other endangered, still wilderness areas.

For the sake of the present occupants of the area, we absolutely oppose the Forest Service's proposal to use helicopters or mechanized means to rebuild this total eyesore. It is a total violation of the Wilderness Act to declare such a structure is part of the wilderness character of the area when the Act clearly precludes structures. We need to STOP infringing and setting precedent for the wholesale rape of our public lands with erosions like these! After 50 years of observation our family is horrified at the poor decision-making of Public Officials, landing us in the Global Warming Catastrophe surrounding us and our so-called-"protected lands."

We need an alternative that lets the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness be healed by allowing the metal remnants of the Quonset hut to fade with time, or by using wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to get that unsightly garbage out of there.

It is imperative you withdraw the present proposal and develop and an action plan truly in the public interest with our descendants in mind.

Sincerely,

John Kersting

I have enclosed what I consider my photographic credentials as attachments of my 1971 Cub Scout Den Chief Appreciation Award, a picture of Shi Shi Beach by my Award Winning Nature Photographer friend Iron Tazz. <https://www.ironTazz.com/>, Ange Oak near my past Alabama residence, my deceased mother at Dungeness Spit and Mu Ko Anthong National Marine Park in Thailand where I now live half time.