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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am commenting on Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project in the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. I am opposed to any attempt to reconstruct the damaged Quonset hut. It would be contrary to the Forest Service's primary responsibility of protecting the wild character of wilderness areas. Even worse is the proposal to use helicopters and other methods inimical to wilderness to effect repairs and to "improve" the facility. There is absolutely no reason to repair this structure, and especially to waive law and regulations to use prohibited methods to do so.

I have travelled in many wilderness areas over the past 45 years. At no time would I have expected to encounter such a facility, nor would I have been pleased. It runs contrary to the Wilderness Act and the reasons for it, as elucidated so well by Wallace Stegner in his famous letter of 1960. I've attached a copy.

I support adoption of an alternative that would remove the metal remnant of the building by means compatible with wilderness, ie. non-motorized or mechanized. I see no historical reasons to allow it simply to deteriorate in place, and would oppose that. I could support such an alternative if the funds saved by allowing it to moulder away in situ would then be employed to improve and enhance the wilderness character of the area or legitimate access to it, in some other, designated, way that met my approval.