

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/11/2025 8:27:27 PM

First name: Ezra

Last name: Nair

Organization: Utah County Government

Title: County Administrator

Comments: Brandon B. Gordon

Skyler Beltran

Amelia Powers Gardner

Historic Courthouse

51 S University Ave, Ste 320

Provo, UT 84601

P: (801) 851-8100

[www.utahcounty.gov](http://www.utahcounty.gov)

Utah County Commission

July 9, 2025

Re: Emerald Lake Shelter

To the USDA Forest Service,

As the Utah County Commission, we fully support the efforts to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter in the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, located within the Pleasant Grove Ranger District.

The Emerald Lake Shelter collapsed during the 2021-2022 winter season and, in its current condition, detracts from the Wilderness character of the area. This shelter is a historic structure and, due to its cultural, scenic, and historical significance, is undoubtedly a feature of value to the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness.

While we recognize and appreciate the shelter's cultural and historical importance, the most critical aspect for us is public safety. Over the years, the shelter has saved multiple lives and provided essential protection from harsh weather conditions for hikers and backcountry visitors. Our Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue team have also credited the shelter with providing significant safety value in emergency situations.

We fully support the reconstruction of this important structure and sincerely appreciate your willingness to reinvest in our community and the preservation and stewardship of this iconic and treasured area.

Sincerely,

Brandon B. Gordon, Chair