Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/18/2024 1:00:32 PM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I have volunteered with TERT since 1996. My comments are based on a combination of my experience as a team member as well as an avid hiker that goes up on the mountain frequently even when not on duty.

Timpanogos is a well loved mountain, and the accessibility of it puts it in an unique position to have many hikers ascend it that are not well prepared for the rigors of the rapid change in elevation, long duration of the hike, and exposure at high altitude. The weather conditions on the mountain are unique and can often be quite severe, and suddenly. As a TERT volunteer, I have used the shelter numerous times over the years to protect patients I treated from the elements, typically with the outcome that they were able to stabilize and hike out, which is the best case scenario. I have also used the shelter in cases where patients required evacuation and it was critical to the safety and well being of the patient to have it. It has provided important protection from the elements even for well prepared hikers, mitigating circumstances that could otherwise have turned into an evacuation.

As the shelter has suffered intensely from aging without appropriate maintenance, the partial wall and propped up roof still are used to wait out severe storms, and to protect patients while we care for them.

There has been talk about restoring or repairing the shelter for literally decades, very nearly since I started volunteering with TERT. I recognize that the area is a wilderness area and that man made structures are avoided, however, Timpanogos is a unique wilderness area with more traffic than any other wilderness area in Utah. Consideration for the historical significance of the building (erected before the wilderness area designation), as well as the practical purposes of shelter that has quite literally saved life and limb should be given in this case.

I am fully supportive of rebuilding the Emerald Lake shelter.