

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/31/2024 1:45:21 AM

First name: Kent

Last name: Compton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am strongly in favor of reconstruction of the emerald lake hut. It is shameful that the heavy hand of federal laws have prevented any preservation effort for the hut up to this point. My first camp in the hut was in the mid 1960s. I have survived a major spring avalanche in 1973 by taking refuge in the hut. The tree of us would have surely died without the protection of the hut. I am one of the three founders of the current Utah County Sheriff Search and Rescue, still active. in January of 1977 I led a successful rescue of two BYU students who were trapped for 3 days at the hut from an unexpected major snow storm. At my suggestion, a helicopter with a rescue member flew to the hut in a white out blizzard and found them alive and safe in the hut. They were out of food and fuel and likely would not have survived the second storm which was just getting going. Countless lives have been saved by that hut. Even more important than the obvious life saving presence of the hut, is the historical connection to our past. All of my great grandparents were mormon pioneers who helped settle utah. The Hut, and the CCC effort which built it are irreplaceable connections to my family's roots, which roots should be rescued from government folly. I remember attending the BYU "timp hike" in the sixties. Putting Timp in a wilderness area was a huge mistake. Back when timp was managed as a USFS Scenic area, the forest service had many more tools to properly manage this great resource. It is a joke to call any part of timpanogos a wilderness area. I have hiked, skied, camped, rescued on almost every square foot of that mountain, in each and every season. There is no place on timp where you can get away from viewing city lights, hearing the roar of traffic, listen the rumble of trains, encountering throngs of people, without it ever stopping. It really is not realistic, nor honest to call it a wilderness other than what congress on the other side of the continent imposed on we the people. At least I would like to see my children, and grand children enjoy a little bit of their mountain's history with a restored hut. I get it that you USFS people are required to work within the constraints of the Wilderness act, and the "Forest Plan". I have been a key participant in three major Environmental Impact Statements on Forest Service permits so I understand the process you are required to operate under. I thank you for an opportunity to have a voice. I have just scratched the surface on my adventures on timp. Feel free to contact me if you ever want more detailed history from my experiences on the mountain.

Sincerely, Kent