Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2024 7:56:31 PM First name: Christopher Last name: Hamilton Organization: Title:

Comments: I am a retired senior citizen who still hikes and backpacks in wild places that, luckily, this country has preserved for enthusiasts of the outdoors.

In my adventures, I have certainly seen structures like the one under consideration. They were put in place in another era, before we cemented wilderness values in our national statutes. Today, we generally prefer to leave nature as it exists as much as possible, particularly in designated wilderness areas.

Now I see the Forest Service proposing to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter in Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, Utah County, Utah. The shelter may be historic and eligible for designation on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and may contribute to the character of Mount Timpanogos Wilderness as an Other Feature of Value due to its cultural, scenic, and historical significance. But the Proposed Action to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter with similar specifications that now exist is unwise in this era.

I favor letting it continue to deteriorate back into nature.

If the Forest Service should decide, however, to restructure in as proposed, I really, really oppose doing so in ways contrary to wilderness value. For example, using helicopters or other disturbing machinery must be considered completely contrary to values in the Wilderness Act.

So, if restructuring is approved, I favor the least instrusinve alternative possible for doing the work