

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2024 8:45:30 PM

First name: John

Last name: McLain

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern, U.S. Forest Service,

Good afternoon. Some thoughts on the Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Process:

- It is the responsibility of The Forest Service's to protect the wild nature of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, rather than hu,an structures such as the Quinonet hut, which degrade the area and is not necessary to administer the Wilderness.

- The Forest Service's wilderness policy recognizes that this structure is not necessary for visitor use, stating that visitors must be prepared to face "inherent risks of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications, and that search and rescue may not be as rapid as expected in an urban setting."

- The Forest Service's proposal to build a new structure is antithetical to Wilderness. It is a nonsensical use of the Wilderness Act to declare such a structure is part of the wilderness character of the area when the Act clearly precludes structures.

- The Forest Service should adopt alternatives that let the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness be wild by allowing the metal remnants of the Quonset hut to decay, or by using wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to remove it.

Thank you,

John M.