Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2024 8:58:22 PM First name: Diane Last name: Kastel Organization: Title:

Comments: The "U.S. Forest Service" is taking, public, comment on the "Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project"-a proposal you claim would improve the, wilderness, character of the "Mount Timpanogos Wilderness" along the "Wasatch Front", in Utah! In reality, your Agency's proposal would, seriously, degrade this rugged, high, elevation, Wilderness!

Our family believes that the "Forest Service" MUST adopt an alternative that lets the Wilderness be wild by allowing the hut to fade, with time, or, that uses, wilderness-compatible, means to remove the hut's remnants!

The, natural, deterioration of structures is part of Wilderness-it is evidence of untrammeled, and, timeless, natural, processes reclaiming the Wilderness from temporary, human, occupation! Structures MUST be removed if that can be done in a manner consistent with, wilderness, principles, and, if the impact from removing the structure is less than the impact from leaving the structure! This hut is NOT listed on the, national, register of, historic, places, though it has been proposed for listing! Even if listed, it could be documented, and, allowed to fade into the Wilderness!

The "Forest Service" proposes to use helicopters, and, other, motorized, equipment to reconstruct the "Emerald Lake Shelter", a, sheet, metal, "Quonset", hut, in the Wilderness, that was damaged by snow during 2021/2022!

This metal, "Quonset", hut with a, cemented, rock, retaining, wall was finished in 1960, and, the "Mount Timpanogos Scenic Area" was established in 1961. In 1984, Congress designated the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness". Once this designation occurred, the "Forest Service" became responsible for ensuring that the area remain wild, and, primarily, shaped by nature!

The "Wilderness Act" prohibits structures, with a, very, narrow, exception for those that are the, minimum, necessary to preserve Wilderness-a, high, bar to achieve! This, out-of-place, hut NOT, only, detracts from the Wilderness, but, also, fails to meet this, "Wilderness Act", requirement!

Rather than adhere to the "Wilderness Act," the "Forest Service" turns the "Act", on its head, by stating this blight is part of the area's, wilderness, character, and, needs to be rebuilt/updated to protect the Wilderness! This is absurd! This is false, and, a misuse!

The proposal includes, helicopter, flights, motorized, equipment, cement, mixers, and, other, motorized, tools. Incidentally, the, original, hut was, supposedly, built without helicopters, or, motorized, access, and, most supplies were packed in!