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Comments: The primary responsibility of the U.S. Forest Service is to protect the wild, untrammeled nature of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, not to preserve structures like the Quonset hut, which degrade the area and undermine the very essence of wilderness. The Quonset hut serves no essential purpose in administering the wilderness and, as it stands, violates the core principles of the Wilderness Act.

The Forest Service's own wilderness policy acknowledges that structures are not necessary for visitor use. It explicitly states that visitors must come prepared to face the "inherent risks of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications," fully aware that search and rescue may not happen as quickly as it would in urban areas. This expectation is part of what it means to enter the wilderness-accepting its challenges and dangers as a reflection of its raw, untamed nature. Introducing more human-made structures erodes that very character.

The Forest Service's proposal to employ helicopters and build a new, improved structure flies in the face of wilderness values. It represents a fundamental misinterpretation of the Wilderness Act to suggest that such a structure could enhance or embody the wilderness character of the area. The Act clearly precludes the construction of structures in these protected spaces, and the notion that helicopters should be used in the process only compounds the absurdity of the plan. Wilderness is not meant to be convenient; it is meant to be wild.

The Forest Service must consider alternatives that honor the integrity of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. Allowing the remnants of the Quonset hut to naturally deteriorate over time, or using wilderness-compatible methods such as non-motorized, non-mechanized tools for removal, would uphold the principles of wilderness stewardship. Let us not forget that the purpose of the Wilderness Act is to preserve these lands in their most natural state, free from unnecessary human interference. This isn't just a matter of policy; it's a moral imperative to ensure that future generations can experience the wildness that defines our remaining untouched landscapes.