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First name: Pam

Last name: Nelson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the reconstruction of the Emerald Lake Shelter, a sheet metal Quonset hut. The natural deterioration of structures is part of Wilderness-it is evidence of untrammelled and timeless natural processes reclaiming the Wilderness from temporary human occupation.

Structures should 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. Furthermore, The Forest Service's first responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness.

The Forest Service's own wilderness policy recognizes that a structure is not needed for visitor use, stating that visitors must be prepared on their own 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."

Please let it fade away on it's own or use non-mechanical means to remove it. We need to be vigilante with our few and fragile Wilderness areas.