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Comments: I strongly urge that the Emerald Lake Shelter not be reconstructed, but be allowed to degrade naturally, or that its parts be removed by means compatible with wilderness use -- not helicopters or motorized transport.

The hut is in an area that was designated the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness in 1984. From then on, the Forest Service needed to keep the land wild and primarily shaped by nature. There is no need to rebuild a Quonset hut there.

The Forest Service's Wilderness policy recognizes that structures are not required for visitor use; visitors must be prepared to face "inherent risks of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications...."

Rebuilding a Quonset hut in Wilderness is contrary to the Wilderness Act. The Act defines wilderness as: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable...."

"Undeveloped Federal land... without permanent improvements...." means no Quonset huts!

The hut was there when this land was designated Wilderness, but now that it has been damaged and is decaying, either let it go, or remove its parts without motorized transport, as it was built -- whichever is more compatible with the true definition of Wilderness as used in the Wilderness Act.

The Forest Service should adopt an alternative that lets the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness remain Wilderness as defined by law. Do NOT rebuild a Quonset hut using helicopters and motors in a wilderness!

Thank you for considering my remarks.