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Comments: Re: the Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project

Please let nature take its course and allow the shelter to naturally deteriorate. To use helicopters, cement mixers (running gas engines all day---and where is the water coming from??), and power tools, in a Wilderness, is unacceptable.

The Forest Service's first responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness rather than a structure. The shelter (hut) is not necessary to administer the Wilderness.

The 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."

The Forest Service's proposal to use helicopters and build a new improved structure is antithetical to Wilderness. It is a perversion of the Wilderness Act to declare that such a structure is part of the Wilderness character when the Act clearly precludes structures.

The Service must adopt an alternative plan that lets the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness be wild by allowing the metal remnants of the shelter to fade with time or---alternatively---by using Wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to remove it.