

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2024 9:32:15 PM

First name: Tim

Last name: Allard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Forest Service:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Service's proposal to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter in Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, Utah County, Utah. Your first and primary responsibility is to protect the wild character of designated Wilderness, which includes the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. Your responsibilities should not include maintaining any structures such as the Quinset hut, which in fact degrades the wilderness characteristics of this area and is not necessary to properly administer the Wilderness.

The Forest Service's wilderness own policy recognizes "this structure is not needed for visitor use", and further states 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."

Your proposal to use helicopters and other mechanized tools to build a new improved structure is antithetical to Wilderness. It is not consistent with the Wilderness Act, or the intent of the Act, to simply declare this structure is part of the wilderness character of the area when the Act clearly precludes structures. What is next, a reservation system administrated by a private, for profit, vendor such as (National Parks) Xanterra Travel !

The Forest Service must adopt an alternative that allows the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness to be wild and further allows the metal remnants of the Quonset hut to fade with time. This started with nature's own act when the hut was damaged by snow in the winter of 2021/2022. An acceptable alternative would be to allow wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to remove it's debris.