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Comments: Please do not reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter in the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. The Forest Service's first responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, and this structure should be allowed to degrade and return the area to 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." Additionally, 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 such a structure is part of the wilderness character of the area when the Act clearly precludes structures. Once designated as wilderness, the Forest Service became responsible for ensuring that the area remain wild and primarily shaped by nature.

This out-of-place hut not only detracts from the Wilderness, but also fails to meet the requirements of the Wilderness Act. The Forest Service must adopt an alternative that lets the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness be wild by allowing the metal remnants of the Quonset hut to fade with time, or by using wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to remove it.