

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2024 10:16:03 PM

First name: (Miss) L.

Last name: Leland

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I AM OPPOSED to the Forest Service's Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project-a proposal it FALSELY claims would improve the wilderness character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness along the Wasatch Front in Utah.

Instead the agency's proposal would seriously degrade this rugged, high elevation Wilderness. The Forest Service's unconscionable proposal to use helicopters to build a new improved structure to replace the damaged hut is antithetical to Wilderness

The metal Quonset hut with a cemented rock wall was finished in 1960, and the Mount Timpanogos Scenic Area was established in 1961.

In 1984, Congress designated the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. Once this designation occurred, 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 this Wilderness Act requirement.

Rather than adhere to the Wilderness Act, the badly governed Forest Service turns its back on the Act by claiming the hut, which is a blight is part of the area's wilderness character and needs to be rebuilt and updated to protect the Wilderness.

THAT IS FALSE!!! There is nothing "wild" about a metal Quonset hut!!! 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. This hut is not listed on the national register of historic places!!

The natural deterioration of preexisting structures is part of Wilderness-it is evidence of untrammled 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 ONLY if the impact from removing the structure is less than the impact from leaving the structure.

Their proposal includes objectionable use of helicopter flights, motorized equipment, cement mixers, and other motorized tools the Act dictates to NEVER be used in Wilderness areas!!! Incidentally, the original hut was supposedly built without helicopters or motorized access, and most supplies were packed in.

The Forest Service's first responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, rather than any structures such as the Quonset hut, which degrades the area is a blight on the area and is not necessary to administer the Wilderness.

The Forest Service's own wilderness policy recognizes that a structure is not needed for visitor use!!!

The Forest Service must adopt an alternative that lets the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness be wild by preferably allowing the metal remnants of the Quonset hut to fade with time!!!

Removal only if by using wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to remove it.