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First name: Paula

Last name: Shafransky

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I appreciate this opportunity to comment on Emerald Lake Reconstruction project #66370. It appears to me that this proposal claims it would improve the wilderness character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness along the Wasatch Front in Utah. In reality, I believe the agency's proposal would seriously degrade this rugged, high elevation Wilderness.

It is the Forest Service's first responsibility is to PROTECT the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, rather than any structures such as the Quinoset hut, which degrades the area and is certainly not necessary to administer the Wilderness.

According to the Forest Service's own wilderness policy it has recognized 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."

This proposal to use helicopters and build a new improved structure is antithetical to the designation and spirit of 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 Wilderness Act CLEARLY precludes structures.

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.