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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Regarding the Emerald Lake Shelter Quonset hut in the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, the Wilderness Act prohibits structures, with a very narrow exception for those that are the minimum necessary to preserve Wilderness-a high bar to achieve. This man-made hut not only detracts from the Wilderness, but also fails to meet this Wilderness Act requirement. The Forest Service's main responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, not any man-made structures in it. I'm unsure how anyone familiar with The Wilderness Act could in good faith think that this structure should be fixed up so it will remain indefinitely. Your own wilderness policy recognizes that man-made structures are not needed for visitor use. It 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." So why are you advocating for fixing it up? It goes against your responsibilities and your very mission. I mean, honestly, it's crystal clear.

Furthermore, the Forest Service's proposal to use helicopters and motorized equipment and power tools is also blatantly antithetical to Wilderness.

You should either allow the Quonset hut to disintegrate with time, or, using non-motorized, non-mechanized means, just remove it.

Thanks for considering my comments.