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Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment on the Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project.

Specifically, I have these thoughts to share on the proposal:

The main priority of the USFS is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness and not structures such as the Quinoset hut which degrades the area and is not necessary to administer the Wilderness.

The Forest Service's own wilderness policy acknowledges 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."

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.

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.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Shen