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Organization:

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Comments: Dear Forest Service Staff:

I oppose the reconstruction of the Emerald Lake Shelter in the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness for the following reasons:

1. Read the Wilderness Act. The Forest Service's first responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, rather than any structures such as the Emerald Lake Shelter, which degrades the area and is not necessary to administer the Wilderness.
2. Read the Forest Service's Wilderness Policy. 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."
3. Again, read the Wilderness Act. 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.
4. Read NEPA. 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.
5. Keeping It Wild² is a perversion of the 1964 Wilderness Act, and that informal policy (which has never gone through rulemaking) simply cannot override the Wilderness Act. Your attempted use of KIW2's "Other Feature of Value due to its cultural, scenic, and historical significance" b.s. cannot justify the violation of federal law that this project proposes. Get that structure out of designated Wilderness!!