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Comments: Dear Forest Service,

These are my personal comments for the Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project #66370 in the Mount Timponogos Wilderness Area (MTWA).

I oppose this proposal because it will continue the diminishment of wilderness character and untrammelled wilderness in the MTWA. The U.S. Forest Service (FS) has a responsibility to protect wilderness character and untrammelled wilderness, not build structures in wilderness.

The FS and the people who visit wilderness, on Nature's terms, don't need a reconstructed hut for administration of the MTWA.

The FS has a wilderness policy that states that structures aren't needed for visitors and that those who enter wilderness must be prepared 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 MTWA must be protected from visitors that want the comforts of a hut when wilderness doesn't allow this.

The proposed use of helicopters ensures that the FS will trammel the MTWA so that the FS can build a structure that will further trammel this wilderness area. This makes no sense and is ridiculous. With this philosophy, which is illegal, why not pave all trails in wilderness to make it easier to further trammel it. No construction, no shelter structure, no helicopters, none of this in the MTWA. Stop this illegal degradation of wilderness now!!!

The FS can and must remove the degraded shelter and allow for less trammeling and more protection of wilderness character in the MTWA. When the shelter is removed only do so by the use of wilderness-compatible means, like non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to remove it and either hike out the materials or use pack stock to remove it.

The FS must stop trying to treat MTWA like a recreational area and give it the respect that the law requires. Don't break the law, enforce the law on yourself and act as an example of how wilderness management should be implemented.

Remove the shelter in the MTWA to reduce trammeling and protect wilderness character and do so in a way that the Wilderness Act allows and not in the fastest and easiest way for the FS to do so.

Brandt Mannchen