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Comments: I am submitting comments on the Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project (ELSRP) in the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. It is important to uphold and adhere to the Wilderness Act, and the ELSRP proposal does not. The USFS proposes to use helicopters and other motorized equipment to reconstruct a shelter (that does not fit wilderness character in the first place) -- the agency's proposal flies in the face of what we Americans hold valuable in our country's wilderness areas and expect the agency who cares for these lands to understand that a project like this will seriously degrade the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness.

Please consider the following:

- The Forest Service's first responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, rather than any structures such as the Quonset hut, which degrades the area and is not necessary to administer the Wilderness.

- 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."

- The Forest Service's proposal to use helicopters, motorized equipment, cement mixers, and other motorized tools to 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, preferably, by using wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools or pack stock, to remove it.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.