Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/10/2024 6:50:21 PM First name: Bharat Last name: Adarkar Organization: Title: Comments:

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

The Forest Service's wilderness policy recognizes that a structure is 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."

The Forest Service's proposal to use helicopters and build a new, improved structure is antithetical to Wilderness. Declaring that such a structure is part of the area's wilderness character when the Act clearly precludes structures is a perversion of the Wilderness Act.

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.