Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 12:27:41 AM First name: Betsy Last name: Ungeheier Organization: Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

As stewards of our natural landscapes, we recognize that the primary mission of the Forest Service is to safeguard the untamed essence of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. Our focus must be on preserving this wilderness area in its magnificent, natural state, rather than investing resources in the maintenance of structures like the Quonset hut, which detracts from its integrity and serves no essential purpose in managing the Wilderness. It is important to acknowledge that the Forest Service's own policies clearly state that wilderness visitors should be equipped to handle the inherent challenges of this majestic and wild environment. This includes being ready for adverse weather, the potential for isolation, and the physical demands of the landscape, all while understanding that rescue operations in these remote areas may not occur as swiftly as in urban settings. The recent proposal from the Forest Service to utilize helicopters and construct an upgraded facility runs counter to the very principles of Wilderness preservation. It fundamentally misinterprets the Wilderness Act, which explicitly prohibits the introduction of structures that would compromise the natural character of these priceless areas. Moving forward, we must embrace alternatives that genuinely honor the wild spirit of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. We can allow the remnants of the Quonset hut to gradually merge back into the landscape over time, or we can utilize wilderness-friendly approaches, employing non-motorized and nonmechanized tools to remove it. Together, let us commit to preserving the wild beauty of this extraordinary wilderness for future generations to enjoy. Thank you.