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Comments: The Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project is a proposal that the United States Forest Service claims would improve the wilderness character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness along the Wasatch Front in Utah. However, the reality is that it would seriously degrade this Wilderness.

The Forest Service proposes to use helicopters and other motorized equipment to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter, a sheet metal Quonset hut in the Wilderness that was damaged by snow during 2021-2022. It is my opinion that the Forest Service should adopt an alternative plan that would allow the hut to fade with time, or that uses Wilderness-compatible means, such as non-motorized/non-mechanized tools, to remove the hut's remnants.

Protecting the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos should be the Forest Service's first responsibility. Its own Wilderness policy recognizes that a structure is not needed for visitor use..

Its proposal to use helicopters and build a new, improved structure is contrary to the idea of Wilderness. The Wilderness Act clearly precludes structures.

Thank you for considering my opinion and suggestions.