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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am in support of rebuilding the shelter.

I moved to Provo with my family in 2010. I have been regularly hiking Timp, ever since. Sometimes alone. Sometimes with family. Sometimes with friends. Sometimes with acquaintances from out of town who want to hike Timp (from as far away as France).

My observation is that the shelter serves two primary purposes:

1) It is a place to gather - It is a great location to plan meet people throughout the day. It is also a great location to engage in conversation with strangers. Because it is a place where people are resting and relaxing and refueling, it seems that people gather there and strike up a conversation with someone they don't know. These conversations seem to happen more frequently at the shelter than anywhere else on the mountain. We need to maintain and promote places where people who have never met can interact in a healthy environment.

2) It is a place of refuge - There are a lot of people on the mountain with various degrees of experience and physical fitness. The weather is often unpredictable. Sometimes, people just make poor decisions. When the shelter was there, it was often used as a refuge from a storm; a place of rest and recovery from the altitude or lack of food and water; and a place to assess and address an injury. I truly believe the shelter helped to mitigate what could become more serious problems on the mountain. I can think of two occasions where my party benefited from the shelter as a place of refuge during a hike.

I would love to see the shelter rebuilt in a manner that honors the past and brings a sense of pride and security to those who use the mountain.