

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/11/2025 10:13:47 AM

First name: Beth

Last name: Dillenbeck

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The idea of a wilderness area being invaded by motorized vehicles and equipment is anathema to the purpose of a wilderness area, and would horribly detract from the character of the environment, and ruin it for those of us who go there specifically for wilderness experiences. The Forest Service's primary purpose is to protect the wild character of the lands they're in charge of, in this case specifically the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. There's no need or reason to rebuild a crumbled old hut that existed for a long-cancelled hiking trip. Anyone who goes into the wilderness knows that they need to be prepared on their own to face the various uncontrollable possibilities of backcountry wilderness. The weather, the hazards, the lack of cell access, the reality that rescue is not guaranteed, and certainly not quick.

The Forest Service should implement the alternative that perpetuates the wild aspects of Mount Timpanogos Wilderness by allowing the Quonset hut to deteriorate naturally over time. At most it could be manually removed. The remaining rock and cement can just sit in place and crumble back into the Wilderness. Claiming that it can't be dismantled or even repaired using traditional means is false, as the Forest Service built the hut without motorized equipment.

The EA does not detail how many helicopters flights are expected or the duration of the project. It only alleges, without proof, that stock is impractical and stock users (unidentified) said they wouldn't take their animals up there. The Forest Service has wilderness stock. There is no indication the agency asked its own people.

For such a massive undertaking, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed, especially because the Forest Service proposes a project in Wilderness involving helicopter flights, motorized equipment, jackhammers, cement mixers, and other motorized tools.