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Comments: I write today as a concerned advocate for the enduring spirit and integrity of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. The Forest Service has a clear and solemn responsibility: to protect the wild character of this treasured landscape. This responsibility is enshrined in the agency's own wilderness policy, which affirms that visitor use does not require built structures and that individuals must be self-reliant, prepared for isolation, physical hazards, and the unpredictable nature of wilderness settings.

The proposal involving helicopter flights, motorized equipment, jackhammers, and cement mixers-tools antithetical to the Wilderness Act's intent-marks a significant departure from those ideals. A project of this magnitude necessitates a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), not merely an abbreviated Environmental Assessment (EA). Without specific details on the number of helicopter flights or the project's duration, the EA leaves critical questions unanswered and relies on unsupported claims. For example, the assertion that pack stock cannot access the area is unsubstantiated and lacks input from the Forest Service's own wilderness stock handlers.

Moreover, there is a simpler, more responsible path forward. The agency should embrace an alternative that reflects its duty to let wilderness be wild. The metal remnants of the Quonset hut could be left to fade naturally, or removed using traditional, wilderness-compatible methods-just as the hut was originally built without motorized equipment. The remaining rock and concrete can be safely dismantled and allowed to return to the landscape without mechanized disruption. To claim that these features cannot be removed without violating wilderness values is not only misleading-it contradicts the history and principles on which the Forest Service stands.

I respectfully urge the Forest Service to reconsider this proposal and reaffirm its commitment to preserving the natural, untrammelled character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness for generations to come.

Enormously concerned,
Rita Lemkuil