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Comments: The Forest Service's primary responsibility is to preserve the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. According to the agency's own wilderness policy, structures are not required for visitor use. The policy clearly states that visitors must be prepared to face "inherent risks of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications," and that search and rescue operations may not be as swift as those in urban settings.

In keeping with these principles, the Forest Service should adopt an alternative that honors the wilderness character of Mount Timpanogos-either by allowing the metal remnants of the Quonset hut to naturally deteriorate over time or by removing them using methods compatible with wilderness values. The remaining rock and cement components could be safely dismantled and left to fade back into the landscape. The assertion that the structure cannot be dismantled-or even repaired-using traditional, non-motorized methods is misleading, especially considering the original hut was constructed without motorized equipment.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) fails to specify how many helicopter flights would be required or how long the project would take. It merely claims, without evidence, that using pack stock is impractical, citing unnamed sources who allegedly refused to take animals to the site. However, the Forest Service itself maintains wilderness stock, and there is no indication that its own personnel were consulted.

Given the scale of the proposed operation-which includes helicopter use, motorized equipment, jackhammers, cement mixers, and other mechanized tools within a designated Wilderness-an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not only warranted but essential.