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Comments: Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Emerald Lake Shelter Reconstruction Project (#66370).

I would strongly urge that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be undertaken given that the project proposed by the Forest Service involves the use of helicopter flights, motorized equipment, jackhammers, cement mixers and other motorized tools in a wilderness setting.

The Forest Service's first responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. The agency's own wilderness policy recognizes that a structure is not needed for visitor use, stating that visitors must be prepared on their own to face "inherent risks of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications, and that search and rescue may not be as rapid as expected in an urban setting."

I would also ask that the Forest Service analyze and adopt an alternative that lets the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness be wild, by allowing the metal remnants of the quonset hut to fade with time (or by using wilderness-compatible means to remove it). The remaining rock and cement could be safely dismantled and allowed to fade back into the wilderness.