

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/13/2025 4:33:14 AM

First name: Norah

Last name: Bate

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Forest Service has a responsibility is to protect the wild character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness. Agency wilderness policy recognizes that a structure is not needed for visitor use as 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."

First priority must be to prevent damage to this important area and let it remain wild. The claim that the guy cannot be repaired or even simply dismantled using traditional means is false, as the Forest Service built the hut without motorized equipment. It is unclear what possible reasons motivate the claim in the EA that stock is impractical other than a mention of unidentified stick users being unwilling to take their animals to the site. The Forest Service has its own wilderness stock and there is no indication that the agency made an attempt to enlist its own people for this task.

Given that the Forest Service proposes a project in Wilderness involving helicopter flights, motorized equipment, jackhammers, cement mixers, and other motorized tools, at a bare minimum, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed. The EA does not even detail how many helicopter flights are expected or the duration of the project.

If the Forestry Service is unwilling to entertain the use of traditional methods which would best preserve the Wilderness, and the hut is not necessary for visitor use, the best course of action is to simply dismantle the Quonset hut in place and allow the metal, rock, and cement remnants to fade back into the Wilderness over time.