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Comments: I thank the USDA/USFS for accepting public comments regarding this project. Particularly as we experience unprecedented losses of biodiversity, we have a responsibility to protect our few remaining truly wild places. I'm writing to urge the Forest Service to do just that with respect to the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness and this shelter.

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 ask that the Forest Service analyze and adopt an alternative that lets the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness remain 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. As the Forest Service originally built the hut without motorized equipment, it can most certainly be dismantled (or repair, as the case may be) using traditional means.

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

Unless this shelter causes more damage simply by being there than the project to remove it, please allow nature to reclaim this space and its biodiversity the opportunity to flourish. Thank you.