

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/13/2025 11:51:09 PM

First name: mj

Last name: stigliano

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is the first responsibility of the Forest Service (FS) to protect the wild character of the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness. The FS's own wilderness policy notes that the Quonset hut structure is not needed for visitor use; in fact, the FS goes on to state that visitors must be self-prepared to face risks that are inherent to adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, etc., and search rescue attempts may not be as rapid as is the case in an urban setting.

The Quonset hut is not listed on the national register of historic places, though it has been proposed for listing. Even if listed, it could be documented and allowed to fade into the Wilderness. The natural deterioration of structures is part of Wilderness-there are timeless natural processes reclaiming the Wilderness from temporary human occupation. Structures should be removed if that can be done in a manner consistent with wilderness principles and if the impact from removing the structure is less than the impact from leaving the structure.

The FS must use an alternative method to dismantle the hut either by allowing the metal remnants of the hut to fade with time or using wilderness-compatible means to remove it. After all, the FS built the hut without motorized equipment; therefore, why is the FS proposing such a massive undertaking that would invade the Wilderness with helicopters, jackhammers, cement mixers, and other motorized equipment. It is absurd for the FS to claim that rebuilding the structure would improve the area's wilderness character.

Prior to any undertaking of this nature, an Environmental Impact Statement must be done, especially since the FS is proposing this project be completed with motorized equipment.