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First name: carla

Last name: merrill

Organization: Alpine City

Title: Mayor

Comments: I am writing as the mayor of Alpine, UT. Our community is very active and has prioritized outdoor recreation and preservation. In fact, we put our 200 acre park into conservation easement to preserve the park in perpetuity. Our city has almost 100 miles of trail system within our small city. I am writing in support of reconstructing the Emerald Lake Shelter. The primary reason being safety.

- 1) The inclement weather on the trail can leave hikers stranded and vulnerable to sudden storms.
- 2) at SAR needs a base to perform rescues off the mountain.

I understand the importance of preservation of our lands and why some would not want the shelter rebuilt, however, I feel human life is more important. With our conservation easement the only thing that would allow anyone to pave through the natural park would be if there was a safety concern. Safety is the only reason that would trump the conservation easement.

I know there are SAR rescue operations that happen every year on the mountain and feel for the safety a new shelter must be built.

Thank you,
Carla Merrill
Alpine City Mayor