Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2024 8:23:54 PM
First name: MARK
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Ranger Russ Hansen and Supervisor David Whittekiend,

I am writing to express my strong support for the restoration of the historic Emerald Lake Shelter on Mount Timpanogos. This shelter is a significant part of the area's cultural and historical heritage and plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of the many hikers who explore this beautiful wilderness each year.

I understand that the Forest Service is currently seeking input on a proposal to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter within the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness, Utah County, Utah. As a structure eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the Emerald Lake Shelter contributes to the character of the Mount Timpanogos Wilderness as an Other Feature of Value, recognized for its cultural, scenic, and historical significance.

The Proposed Action to reconstruct the Emerald Lake Shelter to similar specifications as the existing structure is a necessary and commendable step in preserving this important landmark. The shelter's history, dating back to its construction in 1960 with the support of Utah County, the U.S. Forest Service, Provo City, the Provo Chamber of Commerce, and Brigham Young University, reflects the community's deep connection to Mount Timpanogos and the shared commitment to ensuring the safety of those who venture into the wilderness.

The shelter has been a lifeline for countless hikers over the years, providing essential protection from the elements and serving as a base for the Timpanogos Emergency Response Team. Its role in the historic Mount Timpanogos Hike, a tradition that continues to this day, further underscores its cultural significance.

Restoring the Emerald Lake Shelter will not only preserve a critical piece of Utah's history but will also continue to provide a safe refuge for hikers, ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same experiences that have drawn people to Mount Timpanogos for over a century.

I strongly urge you to proceed with the reconstruction of the Emerald Lake Shelter and to secure the necessary funding and resources to preserve this invaluable structure.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our national forests.

Sincerely,
Mark Allen
Executive Director
Protect and Preserve American Fork Canyon