

This formal objection to the proposed Pinecrest Basin Management Direction – Community Center Forest Plan Amendment and Special Use Permit (#68965).

I was born and raised in Tuolumne county and I have lived in Strawberry all of my life. I own a home in Strawberry and I operate my business here in the upper 108 coordinator. I care deeply for those who are my neighbors and also the land we all share and love.

The proposed action represents a clear example of agency overreach, selective enforcement, and improper accommodation of a non-conforming commercial operation at the expense of existing permittees, established management direction, infrastructure limitations, and the long-term integrity of the Pinecrest Basin.

The Forest Service is not merely approving a small operational adjustment. It is fundamentally altering the land-use framework governing one of the most constrained and heavily impacted recreation areas within the Stanislaus National Forest in order to legitimize and expand activities the agency itself acknowledges were previously inconsistent with existing authorization and management direction.

This creates an extremely dangerous precedent.

If the Forest Service can retroactively amend Forest Plan direction whenever a non-conforming commercial operation seeks expanded flexibility, then the entire purpose of long-term forest planning is undermined. Public land management becomes arbitrary, applicant-driven, and politically selective rather than grounded in consistent resource protection, infrastructure capacity, and lawful administration.

The administrative record demonstrates repeated analytical failures and omissions:

- No meaningful wastewater capacity analysis
- No occupancy or demand data supporting claimed need
- No credible traffic or parking modeling
- No cumulative Basin-wide commercialization analysis
- No meaningful economic displacement analysis
- No serious evaluation of wildfire evacuation impacts
- No adequate public safety review regarding alcohol-related operations, schools, or emergency response limitations
- No clear limitation on future commercial intensity or outfitter/guide expansion

Equally troubling is the appearance of inconsistent and unequal treatment. Other interested parties were reportedly informed that use restrictions could not be changed and that commercial expansion was inconsistent with governing management direction. The current applicant, however, is now being afforded extraordinary accommodation through a site-specific Forest Plan amendment and expanded authorization pathway. The agency has provided no rational explanation for this reversal.

**That inconsistency raises serious concerns and erodes public confidence in the integrity of the Forest Service permitting process.**

The proposal also risks permanently altering the historic character of Pinecrest. Incremental commercialization, overlapping visitor-serving operations, increased congestion, expanded staging activity, and intensified recreation pressure threaten to transform Pinecrest from a family-oriented recreation basin into an increasingly commercialized and infrastructure-strained recreation corridor.

Once these entitlements are granted, the precedent and operational impacts will be extremely difficult to reverse.

The Forest Service should not approve a permanent land-use reclassification based on speculation, unsupported assumptions, incomplete analysis, and shifting policy rationales.

The Forest Service should not reward these individual's that have shown a blatant disregard for the current scope of their permit, and have operated an illegal business on federal land for the last year. Their current permit should be revoked, because of these actions, not expanded to encompass their non conforming commercial operation.

For these reasons, the proposed Forest Plan Amendment and Special Use Permit should be withdrawn or denied, I adamantly stand in opposition of this proposal.