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Comments: The proposed action fails to provide adequate and effective improvements needed at and around the Tamolitch Pool and trail system. As others have said, less truly is more, and these proposed actions are not only astronomically expensive, they build many real and abstract barriers keeping the general public from participating, accessing, and connecting with a safer and fuller Blue Pool experience. It is important to note that the public interest is not served by the vast majority of the proposed action.

A ban on swimming represents a real loss of irreproducible experience and is a true disservice to the community as a whole. I've consistently seen spectators atop the cliffs grinning from ear to ear at the shenanigans afloat beneath them. The true beauty of Blue Pool lies within its waters. The grandeur of the space is best experienced down on its banks and immersed in its flawless shimmering underworld. Access to the water needs to be preserved for those who value its exceptional taste, smells, sensations, recreational opportunities, and sights. There is an irresponsible lack of signage educating the public about the dangers of the cliff edge, cliff jumping as related to dense cold water whose surface is too clear to easily discern, hypothermia as related to swimming, the deaths that have occurred, and the inherent dangers associated with the site (all while advising that use of the forest is at one's own risk). The assertion that the "proposed action would have (...) no significant negative effects on recreation" is a glaring flagrant farce. Blue pool is unique globally, and offers a truly otherworldly swimming and underwater experience that is the undoubted highlight for countless visitors, both first timers and regulars alike.

The proposed parking lot, while beautiful, is not a viable solution to alleviate parking congestion. The proposed reduction of parking from "approximately 300 vehicles to 100 vehicles" manufactures a scarcity of parking, and critically fails to serve the needs of this community, the site, and its visitors. Doing so will create increased car traffic 'holding patterns' back and forth on highway 126, disconnect people from the overflow parking at Trail Bridge Campground, and push the parking problem elsewhere into the forest. Let us work with LTD to extend regular bus service beyond the ranger station to include Blue Pool's popular trail head during peak summer months. Let us also work towards better integrating parking and traffic solutions in conjunction with the already planned spaces coming at Trail Bridge Campground (as opposed to relying on commercial solutions including a network of private shuttle operators and a new small exclusive paid parking lot and the associated environmental damages and loss of amazing dispersed camping sites)

There is a very real need to reduce emergency response times, which due to the challenges of the site are often delayed by several hours. Anyone experiencing a medical emergency must wait while someone else makes the 2+ mile journey back to the nearest (pay) phone by the EWEB property. (In fact, the new proposed trail adds distance and even more time to this trip.) An emergency panic button installed with 2-way call box onsite at the pool would be an excellent way to cut critical hours off response times. One could be installed inexpensively and be powered by solar for minimal environmental impact and would integrate nicely with the proposed toilet facilities at the pool, which are also greatly needed. Forest service road 740 already serves as a fantastic resource for emergency personnel and would benefit immensely from both proposed heliport and gate, provided public access is preserved for through-hiking.

For many visitors, this is their first time going out into the forest. We have an excellent opportunity to educate the public on how to treat the natural world, with specific regards to stewardship practices of leaving no trace and packing it in and out. Trash service anywhere other than the trail head should not be provided, but rather more signage inviting people to participate in a pristine Tamolitch experience.

All told, these plans are overblown and fail to honor the space it strives to serve. Blue pool is wild and rugged

and its value lies in that experience. Building it up into a limited and commodified experience will ruin its inherent value.