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Comments: I am writing in opposition to the Pinecrest Basin Management Direction, Community Center Forest Plan Amendment and Special Use Permit proposal.

My primary concern is the long-term protection of Pinecrest as a National Forest recreation area. Pinecrest is valued because of its natural beauty, forest setting, outdoor recreation opportunities, and small mountain character. Expanding commercial zoning and allowing broader commercial activity within the Basin moves Pinecrest away from those values and toward unnecessary commercialization of public forest land.

The Environmental Assessment itself acknowledges that the proposal may increase traffic, parking demand, congestion, safety concerns, pressure on infrastructure, visual changes from signage and lighting, and a shift away from the rustic and nature-based experience many visitors seek. These are real impacts that should not be minimized. During peak seasons, Pinecrest already experiences overcrowding and parking shortages. Adding more commercial draw to the area will worsen existing problems rather than solve them.

I am also concerned about the precedent this proposal creates. The document states the action could encourage additional proposals for similar uses in the future. Once zoning protections are weakened, it becomes much easier for Pinecrest to gradually lose the character that makes it special.

National Forest land should be managed first for recreation, conservation, scenic values, and responsible public access, not expanded commercial activity where services already exist in and around the Basin.

I respectfully request that the Forest Service deny this proposal or require a more thorough review that prioritizes environmental protection, traffic and parking impacts, infrastructure capacity, and preservation of Pinecrest's historic mountain character.

Please protect Pinecrest for future generations.