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Comments: I am writing to oppose the proposed expansion of commercial activity in Pinecrest. This area stands out as a National Forest destination primarily due to its undeveloped character, scenic environment, and emphasis on outdoor recreation. Increasing commercial use within the basin risks undermining those qualities and altering the fundamental experience Pinecrest provides.

The environmental assessment identifies several likely consequences, including added traffic, parking shortages, congestion, safety concerns, and increased strain on infrastructure. Most would agree that these are not minor tradeoffs. During peak periods, Pinecrest already operates at or beyond its capacity. Introducing additional commercial draw would intensify these pressures and further reduce the quality of the visitor experience for both tourists and locals.

I believe there are also longer-term considerations that warrant caution. Expanding development in a forested setting can disrupt wildlife habitat and increase environmental demands (water, soil, etc.) These impacts tend to accumulate over time and reshape the landscape in ways that are difficult to reverse.

Equally important is the precedent this action would set. Allowing broader commercial use within the Basin opens the door for future proposals of a similar kind, making it increasingly difficult to preserve the area's current character. Once that shift occurs, it cannot easily be undone. If this goes into effect, it likely will not be a "one-time thing."

It is also unclear that additional commercial development in Pinecrest is necessary. Nearby communities already provide services that support visitors, and expanding commercial activity within the Basin may simply redistribute economic activity rather than create meaningful new benefit. At the same time, it risks limiting access by shifting the area toward more commercialized, higher-cost experiences.

Pinecrest's value lies in what it is not-a heavily developed destination. Its role within the National Forest system should remain centered on recreation, conservation, and public access, rather than expanded commercial use. For these reasons, I urge the Forest Service to reject this proposal or undertake a more comprehensive review that fully accounts for long-term environmental, infrastructural, and experiential impacts.