

2016 Wildwood

Summit District Recreation Facilities: More improvements on the Horizon!

In May, 2016 US Forest Service personnel released the scoping package for the Pinecrest Campgrounds Project Proposed Action, which proposes to reconstruct Pinecrest and Meadowview Campgrounds, realign and rehabilitate the Shadow of the Mi-Wok Trail, and rezone sections of 4 parking lots in the basin. We received several comments on the package, and appreciate the time several of you put into reviewing and commenting. We will be working over the summer to develop alternatives and prepare the draft Environmental Assessment report; we anticipate that the draft report will be out for another round of public comment sometime in early October. If you have any specific questions on the project, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Jennifer Sorensen at the Summit District office.

Significant progress has been made over the past year on engineering of the Traffic Circulation and Parking (TCP) Plan. This project will completely reconstruct and reconfigure several main roadways and parking lots within the Pinecrest Basin. We hope this project will minimize congestion and issues related to access, parking, circulation and safety. The plan itself represents the work of our local TCP Technical Working Group, which is made up of representatives from several stakeholders in the Pinecrest Basin. Engineering plans are now final, and we are on track to break ground in the Fall, 2016. Until we have a contractor selected and are able to review their proposed construction schedule, we will not know exactly how long the project will take to construct, or which areas/lots will be closed at any given time. That said, we will require that no construction takes place between Memorial Day through Labor Day of each year to ensure that impacts to the traditional summer season are minimized.

Changes to Overnight Parking in the Pinecrest Basin

Closely related to the structural work on the roads and parking lots are upcoming changes to management of parking in the Basin. In developing the TCP, one of the major concerns highlighted by the TCP Technical Working Group was the need to better manage overnight parking in the Basin, including keeping overflow campground parking within the campground boundaries. Last season, many of you may have received a yellow "courtesy notice" on your windshield if you were parking overnight in certain areas. This courtesy notice was put together to help educate users about upcoming changes to parking regulations. Specifically, the USFS is working with Tuolumne County to consider making several lots day use only. These lots include: Lot #1 (also known as the J-Lot, located across from the Commercial Center), Lot #8 (the dirt lot located across from Pinecrest Campground entrance kiosk), and a section of Dodge Ridge Rd. (on either side of the Meadowview Campground entrance). These regulation changes will not be put into effect in 2016, however we are making a few small changes and requests to help ease the transition.

In order to ensure that north and south shore cabin owners continue to have equitable parking opportunities, Pinecrest Permittees Association (PPA) will be issuing 2 parking passes per north/south shore cabin. All cabin owners should receive these passes along with their PPA newsletter.

PARKING FOR THE 2016 SEASON: Please continue to use these PPA passes in the south shore and boat barn lots, as has been done for many years. When these lots are full, or when a cabin has a need for additional parking, please identify the vehicle as associated with a cabin (using one of the PPA passes or just a note in the windshield) and park:

Item 2A

- In Lot #1 ("J-Lot" located across from the commercial center) or
- In Lot #8 (dirt lot located across from the Pinecrest Campground)

Any vehicles parked overnight may still receive a courtesy notice informing of upcoming changes.

Please note: overnight parking in Lots 1 and 8 will remain unrestricted through the 2016 summer season. Identifying cabin related vehicles in these lots will help us to determine the amount of cabin users needing overnight parking in these locations.

PARKING FOR 2017 AND BEYOND: Cabin owners will retain 2 passes per north/south shore cabin. When the south shore/boat barn lots are full, cabin owners will be able to park in any day use area as long as they are displaying the appropriate pass. A cache of additional passes will be available to share among cabin owners for use when they have additional parking needs. Specifics on this cache, including who will administer it and how large it will be are still to be determined.

The USFS Summit District staff would like to sincerely thank the TCP Technical Working Group representatives for staying on to help work through these changes. Parking in the Pinecrest Basin is a severely limited resource, and the fewer vehicles everyone brings to the basin, the better off we all are!