



File Code: 1950
Date: July 20, 2023

Dear Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Agencies,

The Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest is initiating scoping for the Colby Mountain Recreation Project (here after called Project). The Project is a collaboration between the Lassen National Forest and the Butte County Resource Conservation District.

The objective of the Project is to expand recreational opportunities in the Lassen National Forest to multiple user groups by providing long-term, sustainable trails built in a safe and resource sensitive manner. Actions proposed with the Project include:

- Construction of approximately 36 miles of new non-motorized single-track trails out of Jonesville Snow Park.
- Reconstruction and expansion of the Jonesville Snow Park parking lot.
- Reconstruction of the Humboldt Summit Trailhead and construction of a trailhead at the junction of National Forest System roads 27N06 and 27N36, both of which would include a vault-style toilet and picnic tables.

The Project is located on the Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest in Butte, Plumas, and Tehama Counties, California. The project area is within Township (T) 26 North (N), Range (R) 4 East (E), Sections 1-4, 9-14; T26N, R5E, Sections 26-28, 33-36; T27N R5E Sections 31 and 32 and T26N, R5E, Sections 5-7 and 18; Mount Diablo meridian.

I request your input as it relates to the proposed action and identification of any issues (point of discussion, debate, or dispute) about the anticipated effects from this proposed action. I also request that you respond in writing on or before September 23, 2023, so your comments may be considered as we move into the next phase of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

Copies of the proposed action, purpose and need, and decision to be made, are available at the Almanor Ranger District office located at 900 East Highway 36, PO Box 767, Chester, California 96020, and on the Lassen National Forest website:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63192>.

The Almanor Ranger District has made a preliminary assessment that this proposal falls within FSH 1909.15 Chapter 30,32.2 (1) 36 CFR 220.6(e)(1) construction and reconstruction of trails and 36 CFR 220.6 (e) (22) construction, reconstruction, decommissioning, or disposal of buildings, infrastructure, or improvements at an existing recreation site. As a categorical exclusion, it is excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 30). Categorically excluded projects are no longer subject to legal notice and comment and appeal



procedures pursuant to Section 434 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and Section 8006(a)&(b) of the Agricultural Act (Farm Bill) of 2014.

Scoping comments may be submitted to: Russell Nickerson, District Ranger, Almanor Ranger District, P.O. Box 767, 900 East Highway 36, Chester, CA 96020, and fax number (530) 258-5194. The Almanor Ranger District business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Electronic comments may be submitted through the project specific electronic comment form at: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-almanor@usda.gov with the subject line of Colby Mountain Recreation Project. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (.pdf), or MS Word (.doc or .docx).

A decision regarding this proposal is expected in winter of 2023. Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process. For more information on the project, please contact Russell Nickerson, District Ranger, by phone at (530) 258-5110 or by email at russell.nickerson@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



DEB BUMPUS
Forest Supervisor

cc: Russell Nickerson, Laura Corral, Thad Walker