



Protect America's Climbing

June 24, 2020

Los Padres National Forest  
Mt. Pinos Ranger District office  
1190 East Ojai Avenue  
Ojai, CA 93023

**Submitted via comment portal:**

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=58012>

**RE: Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project Scoping**

The Access Fund appreciates this opportunity to provide scoping comments on the Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project.

**Comments**

Access Fund understands the importance of reducing hazardous surface, ladder and crown fuels. The proposed project area encompasses Pine Mountain ridge and overlaps with the high value bouldering and climbing area known as Pine Mountain. First climbed nearly 50 years ago, there are an estimated 160 individual, high-quality climbs<sup>1</sup> on boulder formations on Pine Mountain ridge that draw climbers from across southern California. Access Fund and the local climbing community request that the Forest Service thoroughly survey for important recreational resources such as the existing rock climbing formations when planning for fuels reduction and ensure that no long term damage is done to the boulders and existing access is maintained during and after the project. Preliminary coordinates and a map showing general locations of main climbing locations are attached. We are available to work with the Forest Service to provide additional information, maps and coordinates of these climbing areas. Fire can exfoliate rock and damage the established climbing resources, as well as destroy existing access paths. We encourage the Forest Service to conduct a robust assessment that explores options for saving old growth trees while accomplishing the goals of fuels management in order to maintain the outstanding ecological features of the proposed management zone.

**The Access Fund**

The Access Fund is a national advocacy organization whose mission keeps climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. A 501c(3) non-profit and accredited land trust representing millions of climbers nationwide in all forms of climbing—rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and bouldering—the Access Fund is a US climbing advocacy organization with over 20,000 members and over 123 local affiliates. Access Fund holds a

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mountainproject.com/area/105796886/pine-mountain>

national level Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service.<sup>2</sup> Access Fund provides climbing management expertise, stewardship, project specific funding, and educational outreach. For more information about the Access Fund, visit [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org).

### **Climbing Community Assistance**

Access Fund and the local climbing community are ready, willing, and able to help the Forest Service improve trails, facilities, signage and other management needs. Local climbing communities throughout California have a long history of positive environmental stewardship and collaboration with government agencies, private landowners, and other organizations to protect highly-valued climbing resources in California. Access Fund strives to work with local climbers and land managers to address those needs. We also provide training on planning and stewardship best practices to keep those areas healthy. At a national and local level, Access Fund continues to advocate for greater funding of federal land agencies towards education, enforcement, and stewardship, which can reduce recreational user impacts on Wilderness characteristics. In addition, some aspects of this planning initiative as well as stewardship improvements, human waste management, and user education may qualify for the Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant Program<sup>3</sup> or assistance from our Conservation Team<sup>4</sup> which helps maintain climbing areas throughout the United States.

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Thank you for your consideration of these comments on the Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project Scoping. The Access Fund looks forward to continuing to work with Los Padres National Forest. Please keep us informed as the project proceeds. Feel free to contact me via telephone (303-552-2843) or email ([katie@accessfund.org](mailto:katie@accessfund.org)) to discuss this matter further.

Best Regards,



Katie Goodwin- Policy Analyst/California Regional Director

Cc:

Chris Winter- Executive Director, Access Fund

Erik Murdock-Policy Director, Access Fund

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.accessfund.org/uploads/AF-FS-MOU-2020.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.accessfund.org/take-action/apply-for-a-grant>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.accessfund.org/meet-the-access-fund/our-approach/stewardship-conservation>.







## MARKER LOCATIONS

Positions shown using WGS84 datum.

### ● Enlightenment Ridge

UTM 11S 0288162E 3835057N  
USNG 11S KU 88162 35057  
DD 34.6356 -119.3110  
DDM 34°38.133' -119°18.663'  
DMS 34°38'08" -119°18'40"  
ELE 7117'

### ● North Side Boulders

UTM 11S 0287825E 3835299N  
USNG 11S KU 87825 35299  
DD 34.6377 -119.3148  
DDM 34°38.260' -119°18.887'  
DMS 34°38'16" -119°18'53"  
ELE 7073'

### ● Happy Hunting Grounds

UTM 11S 0287444E 3835382N  
USNG 11S KU 87444 35382  
DD 34.6383 -119.3190  
DDM 34°38.300' -119°19.138'  
DMS 34°38'18" -119°19'08"  
ELE 6922'

### ● Picnic Area Boulders

UTM 11S 0287153E 3835185N  
USNG 11S KU 87153 35185  
DD 34.6365 -119.3221  
DDM 34°38.190' -119°19.325'  
DMS 34°38'11" -119°19'19"  
ELE 6759'

### ● Lower Raspberry Canyon

UTM 11S 0288094E 3836473N  
USNG 11S KU 88094 36473  
DD 34.6483 -119.3121  
DDM 34°38.897' -119°18.728'  
DMS 34°38'54" -119°18'44"  
ELE 5908'

### ● The Jewel

UTM 11S 0287012E 3835544N  
USNG 11S KU 87012 35544  
DD 34.6397 -119.3237  
DDM 34°38.382' -119°19.422'  
DMS 34°38'23" -119°19'25"  
ELE 6748'