



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John. F. Johnston

401 S. Ventura Street, Ojai, CA 93023

July 13, 2020

United States Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
Attn: Supervisor Kevin Elliot
6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117

RE: Opposition to the Pine Mountain Logging Proposal

Dear Mr. Elliot,

The City of Ojai opposes the logging of Pine Mountain. While the logging will occur outside of Ojai city limits, Pine Mountain is a special place for many Ojai residents. Ojai residents are among the many visitors who visit the area for hiking, family camping, birdwatching, and photography, and have a very close personal connection with the place.


In addition, Pine Mountain provides a direct economic benefit to businesses in Ojai, as people who come to the area from throughout southern California stop in Ojai for food, gas, equipment, and lodging on their way to Pine Mountain.

The City of Ojai opposes the logging proposal of Pine Mountain and asks that the agency reconsider the proposal to cut down 755 acres of trees and chaparral. The City is also concerned that the project was proposed during a time of pandemic and civil unrest, and has not allowed the public to be fully informed of this project.

We understand that the Forest Service has proposed this harvest as a form of community wildfire protection. However, several scientific studies have demonstrated that remote vegetation treatments are ineffective in protecting communities from fires that occur during extreme weather – which are the conditions that cause the majority of damage in California. The City of Ojai would recommend promoting defensible space requirements near homes, rather than logging special and invaluable old growth forests of Pine Mountain.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John F. Johnston,
Mayor, City of Ojai