

## Dennis Ghiglieri

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William A. Dunkelberger, Supervisor  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
1200 Franklin Way  
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Dear Supervisor Dunkelberger,

I am pleased to offer the following comments on the Mt. Rose Ski Atoma Draft Environmental Impact Statement. As a lifelong Nevadan and Reno resident, I've been visiting and recreating in this area since I was a small boy. The area that is being considered for the Atoma expansion is where my family would stop on the old Mt Rose highway for picnics and play or to let the car cool-down before we would continue up the steep road to spend time at Lake Tahoe. I've hiked and skied in the area and also spent time with the Nevada Native Plant Society visiting the type Washoe Pine that grows close to the proposed lift terminal at the bottom of the proposed Atoma expansion area. I enjoy hiking and botanizing along the old and new trails and spending time along Galena Creek and its surrounding meadows and forests, waterfalls, and springs.

I strongly support, the proposed Forest Plan Amendment included in both Alternatives 2 and 3 that will prevent future development of commercial uses on the remaining 3,446 acres of land acquired by the USFS in 1994. Also, the USFS and Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe accommodation of dispersed recreation around the Atoma expansion area during winter and within the expansion area during summer is very welcome.

After reviewing the DEIS, I support Alternative 3. Additionally, I support the modifications to the original 2013 plan that 1) removed the proposed forest "glading" in the Atoma expansion, 2) replaced the dam and water impoundment with a constructed water tank, and 3) improved safety for ski lift riders and highway travelers by requiring a net capable of supporting a chair lift in an accident.

Alternative 3, with a lift that services the Atoma Area skiers with a shorter ride and many fewer bridge crossings is an improvement over the single lift configuration in Alternative 2. Further, the addition of an Atoma side restroom is a necessary improvement for the overall skier experience. Also, the alignment of the return chairlift over the skier bridge is a substantial improvement reducing the visual impacts from a separate chairlift. It also eliminates chairlift exposure over the highway and most of the parking lot to lift riders.

When the USFS acquired the nearly 3,700 acres from the Galena Resort in 1994, the promise was that the entire area would be protected from commercial development. Now, nearly 24 years later I strongly support the USFS proposed Plan Amendment to prevent further commercial encroachment onto these remaining acquired lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dennis Ghiglieri