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To: [FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office](#)
Cc: [Joyner, Calvin -FS](#); [West, Laura Jo -FS](#); [Dechter, Mike -FS](#); [Stevens, Jeanne - FS](#); [Clark, Fred P -FS](#); [Begay, Yolynda - FS](#); [Christiansen, Victoria C -FS](#)
Subject: Objection to Agassiz Chairlift Project
Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019 3:02:10 PM
Attachments: [New Information Ragwort .pdf](#)

OBJECTION

December 5, 2019

Arizona Snowbowl Agassiz Chairlift Replacement Proposal

Responsible Official: Cal Joyner, Regional Forester & Laura Jo West, Forest Supervisor

Objector: Shawn Mulford



This project violates my way of life and my rights as an Aboriginal Indigenous Human Being. The rules, policies, statutes, executive orders, mandates, ordinance and all the other relevant laws are not being followed with this project.

The United Nations has also agreed that the US Forest has violated and continues to violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples. When is the Forest Service ever going to listen to us? We are the Original Caretakers of this Land.

We have continually asked the Forest Service to allow a comprehensive independent analysis of the impacts of reclaimed water and other resort activities on the soil, vegetation, water and overall environment. This needs to be done before any more plans are considered or accepted. Let's see what going on after 6 years of reclaimed wastewater usage. Instead of hiding behind decisions like "reclaimed water is not in the scope of this project". Of course it is. We need to take the right action for the Earth and the People. In this case, that means we need to see what damage is taking place, what damage has been already done, and what we can do to stop destructive activities while restoring the damaged areas. We are all adults, let's handle this like responsible adults.

The Forest Service has been mismanaging these lands since they claimed to have the right to do so. Mismanagement is a nice way of saying the Forest Service has no respect for the land or the people of the Earth. As one Elder, Chief Arvol Lookinghorse, states, "The Earth is not a resource, It is the source of Life". Simple – But after 500 years of destructive behavior the newcomers to this land have not learned what respect is. We hope you figure it out for the benefit of your children and grandchildren.

Look at Arizona Snowbowl. Now with your approval and short-sighted decisions you allow your children and grandchildren to be exposed to ingesting treated sewage effluent. We know the DNA of all the diseases are still in the man-made snow and with the gut bacteria replicating every 20 minutes it is possible that your grandchild

being exposed to the snow becomes infected. Simply taking off their glove with their mouth while on the lift to readjust their googles, hat or whatever, exposes them to ingesting treated sewage effluent. I think it is now call reclaimed water because treated sewage effluent was not marketable. That is why the signs say do not ingest.

With your agency's decisions and actions you are leaving the mountain worse than you received it. Didn't your parents teach you to clean up after yourselves? In this case you are leaving a mess and as Indigenous Peoples we have to deal with it because as employees you get to retire or be transferred to another region or forest and make a mess there too. The government switches you a round so you don't have the opportunity to see the mess your making. During your time you may make a well-informed decision to protect Indigenous Peoples and the Earth, what I'm asking you to do is to make that well-informed decision every time. Base your decisions on the health of the environment and the health of the people and with respect to the original nations and peoples, not based on money and politics.

I have travelled and have sat down with you all face-to-face. What I would like to see is for you to begin to work with us, in a good way. Please understand that every day the ski resort is operating it is violating our way of life, it is violating the sanctity of our sacred mountain. When we say sacred it means sacred. It's like you teach your kids – no means no.

I'm here to work with you, if you want do something for the future. In order for that to happen the Forest Service needs to make responsible healthy decisions that have respect for the Earth, the San Francisco Ragwort, the Indigenous Peoples and the Future Generations of All Life.

Let me be clear this Agassiz Project violates the Indigenous ways of life, violates the sanctity of the sacred mountain, violates the critical habitat of the Ragwort and is illegally fragmented and limited in scope to gain approval.

I have much more to say outside this process. We need to again sit down face-to-face and talk about the good things we want to see in the future.

I am attaching 3 photographs of the Ragwort that were identified on 10/18/2019 closer to the project area than Pat McGervey indicated the ragwort were to the project area which is 40 feet. The forth photo is Mr. McGervey pointing to the ragwort that was identified on the EA and BA maps. The other 3 plants were closer. I only spent a short time looking and found three ragworts. An impact zone was not accounted for. With a proper impact zone more ragworts will be destroyed.

Shawn Mulford