March 30, 2021

United States Department of Agriculture

United States Forest Service

Re: Opposition to “Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster #56985”

To whom it should concern:

I write in opposition to the Mountain Coaster. If the Mountain Coaster is developed it will increase the strain and overuse of resources already at risk.

Sandia Peak Ski Area is located in the Sandia Ranger District in the Cibola National Forest. This Mountain is sacred to many indigenous people who have lived in the region for centuries. The Pueblo people that use the resources of the Mountain have done so in a way that goes almost unnoticed. The Pueblo people have hunted, gathered, sought refuge and continued to take pilgrimages to the Mountain and pray for its sustainability and life.

The Mountain’s resources have continually been burdened by a growing population in the region; to the point of near unsustainability.

In decades past the Sandia Mountains and in particular the Sandia Ranger District have been described as Albuquerque’s backyard playground despite most of the Mountain being designated Wilderness. The Mountain resources are being used by permittees to enrich a few business to the detriment of current and future generations of people. The Mountain Coaster will be a detriment and should not be developed.

Regards,

Frank Chaves

Environment Director, 2009 – 2016, Pueblo of Sandia

Sandia Pueblo Member

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