57 Dos Lobos Loop

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March 30th, 2021

Crystal Powell

District Ranger, Sandia Ranger District

Cibola National Forest

11776 Hwy 337

Tijeras, NM 87509

ATTN: Bryan West

Dear New Mexico Forest Service, Cibola National Forest and National Grassland Acting Forest Supervisor, Bradley Turberville, and Sandia District Ranger Crystal Power;

I am not in favor of putting a rollercoaster on Sandia mountain. I am extremely fond of the Sandia mountain and the experiences I have had hiking the La Luz trail more than a dozen times, in the past several years. Upon reaching the top, I have lunch with my significant other, and then we make the trek back down to the base of the mountain. It is a rewarding and serene experience hiking this mountain. We are both extremely grateful for the well-maintained trails and the experiences we have had observing the variation in the native plant species and hearing the canyon wrens early in the morning while hiking. The environmental impact of building a “coaster” on Sandia would be significant and irreparable in the future. Please consider that there will be generations of people to come that may also like to enjoy this mountain without the impact of heavy traffic from unnecessary tourism.

Finally, we share the land of the State of New Mexico with different sovereign nations who have lived here long before the United States existed. Please consider getting the sovereign nations opinion and permission before proceeding with such plans, as the increased tourism would significantly impact them as well. The mountain is considered sacred to many of the neighboring Pueblos surrounding Sandia Mountain. Amusement parks are not meant to be on public lands. I wish to preserve our National Park or state public lands and increasing the traffic of people in pursuit of amusement park entertainment is not the wisest way to preserve our public lands in New Mexico.

Thank you for your consideration and for work in our National Forestry Service.

Theresa A. Bess

4th Grade Teacher

New Mexico Public Schools