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Crystal Powell, District Ranger
Sandia Ranger District
Cibola National Forest,
Attn: Bryan West
11776 Highway 337
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059

Dear Ms. Powell;

I am writing to you today regarding the proposal to install a rollercoaster in the Sandia Mountains. I've been going to the Sandias for almost seventy years. I grew up in Albuquerque, picnicked with my grandparents at Doc Long's, attended Girl Scout camp at the old CCC site, and studied fossils on geology field trips while studying at UNM. More recently, for the past thirty years my family and I have enjoyed hiking in the Sandias. We enjoy our time in nature as a respite from the noise and stress of everyday life. Thus, I am opposed to the rollercoaster proposal for several reasons. Much of the Sandias is designated as wilderness area. Even if the rollercoaster would be installed on land that is not part of the wilderness, the increased human and automobile traffic would have an impact on the part of the Sandias that is so designated. Second, the wildlife of the Sandias would be subject to more pollution, more noise, and more disruption. Already the Department of Game and Fish has destroyed bears because careless and illegal campers have attracted the animals with food. The animals do not need additional stress. Third, the value of the Sandias to the citizens of New Mexico cannot be measured only in the revenues that the venture would generate. For many of us, especially our Native American residents, the Sandias have spiritual value and perhaps religious sites.

I'm not opposed to rollercoasters or amusement parks in general. But I am not in favor of placing one in the middle of the mountains that mean so much to so many of us. For me, the thrill of seeing wild turkeys or deer while hiking is much greater than a rollercoaster can provide. Please ensure that my grandson and his children can have that experience in future years.

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