

(b) (5)

Thank you

enjoy our mt. area love
them in their natural form.

I believe people who

additional
entertainment purposes.

attend one day or for

visit our mountain area

of parks and do not

To whom it may concern:

March 24, 2021

TALK OF THE TOWN



Sandias wrong site for a mountain coaster

YOU HAVE previously thoroughly covered the development of plans for the Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster. I am speaking out against this project. Here's why:

Mountain coasters can be seen as acceptable forms of entertainment in areas like Colorado where large mountain ranges exist and there are many surrounding wild areas untouched by the construction and use of the equipment. This is not true of the Sandia Mountains. Here development surrounds the entire small range and the ski area is surrounded by a small, sensitive wilderness area. The downhill run for the coaster is planned to zig-zag through one of the currently surviving swaths of natural forest growth between ski runs.

The Cibola National Forest still contains many large, centuries-old trees in the area planned for the coaster. There is no acceptable reason for cutting these old trees as part of a construction project. We will never get them back once they are gone. With continuing drought and climate change we must preserve them as long as possible. They are an essential part of habitat for many birds and animals.

I believe the introduction of another entertainment activity would be harmful to the mountain in the long run. A coaster ride will not further the goal of enhancing people's appreciation of nature.

Any member of the public can comment to the Forest Service before March 30 at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56985>. Or by mail: Crystal Powell, District Ranger, Sandia Ranger District Cibola National Forest, Attn. Bryan West 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, New Mexico 87059.

PAULA J. LANE, MD
Cedar Crest

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ALBUQUERQUE NM 870

26 MAR 2021 PM 3 L

MAR 30 2021

Crystal Powell
District Ranger
Sandia Ranger District
Cibola National Forest
West Hwy 337
Tijeras, NM 87059

Att - Bryan