

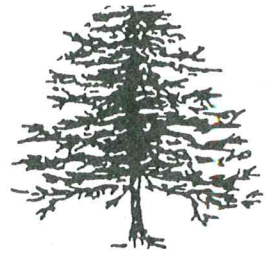
# Your Community Voice in the Carson

Re: TSV Projects

April 22, 2022

James Duran - Carson Forest Supervisor  
c/o Paul Schilke - Winter Sports Coordinator

Scoping  
Comments



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(b) (5)

The following are comments on  
The Proposed Projects at TAOS Ski Valley:

- 1) We request the Forest Service conduct a full E.I.S. for the TSV projects being proposed. These "improvements" are likely to be of great concern to communities downstream, and will have significant impacts for forest resources - esp. the watercourse wildlife and will threaten the river health and water for downstream communities.
- 2) We fail to see a rationale for the Purpose and Need. The NEPA analysis must address this in detail. On the contrary - rather than benefit the environment as TSV states in proposing the over 7,300 foot gondola (questionable reduction in vehicle use on Turning/Kachina Road) - it will only use additional resources to operate. The cement of construction, the towers, platforms, etc. as well as use of energy to operate (no mention whether they will use wind or solar) and the removal of trees, damage to soils, loss of habitat, etc. are all negative environmental impacts.
- 3) We request the NEPA analysis fully disclose these adverse effects from the gondola proposal. And the Forest Service must address how this entire list of projects affects emissions & climate change and will increase forest loss in Spruce-fir habitat - and how that relates to climate effects. →

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we will begin to use it with love and respect."

— Aldo Leopold

A Sand County  
Almanac

QUESTA RANGER DISTRICT

APR 28 2022

District Ranger  
Assist. FMO  
Wildlife Staff  
Resource Assn

Gauge Staff  
Rec. Staff  
BMA File  
Customer Svs. Rec.

1) There has already been significant loss of habitat & trees from TSV projects recently - as well as the large wind blow-down event of Nov. 2021. This needs to be discussed under cumulative effects - esp. upon rare species such as Ptarmigan & pine marten. The high elevations habitat in this part of the Sangres contain some of the last remaining habitat of these animals in New Mexico. It is vital that any existing populations be protected from further disturbance & loss of habitat. These projects only further threaten the viability of marten, Canada lynx, Ptarmigan & others and the Forest Service has a legal obligation to insure that any projects approved do not further harm these species.

5) Tree clearing for recent skidding & trails at TSV opened up the spruce-fir forest to wind-throw - as documented in a TASS NEWS article - by the NM State Forestry Dept. Thus - that NOV. 2021 wind event was made worse because of tree removal by TSV. It is well known that spruce-fir habitat is vulnerable to wind-throw; I have seen this near Chama from logging on the Rio Grande National Forest. The Forest Service Silviculturists acknowledged such when we toured several timber sales with blow-down events after logging. So the Carson needs to discuss this concern in the NEPA analysis.

6) Keeping intact forests and old growth trees are vital in efforts to combat climate change. They are key to keeping CO<sub>2</sub> levels from increasing and this also needs discussion in the NEPA analysis. How will these projects affect the tree density & distribution in the project area? How many trees would be removed for each of the proposed projects? There needs to be detailed information in the NEPA analysis - not just statements that do not include site-specific data.

7) How much soil displacement will occur from all of the proposed projects? Effects of the projects must be disclosed on the Rio Arriba - not just mitigation or BMPs. These soils are fragile highly erodible and likely to degrade the Rio Arriba from so many ground-disturbing activities. To bring more people & resources to this area of the Carson - including Summer Use - impacts to be addressed. How will wildlife & watershed resources be affected by a large increase in Summer Use?

3) Finally - This area of the Carson - including Summer Use - impacts to be addressed. How will wildlife & watershed resources be affected by a large increase in Summer Use? Please address these concerns in a full E.I.S.

Thank you,  
Sincerely, Jeanie Bode of Carson forest watch