

May 5, 2022

James Duran, Forest Supervisor
% Paul Schilke, Winter Sports Coordinator
P.O. Box 110
Questa, NM 87556

Re: Taos Ski Valley Gondola and Other Improvements Project

Mr Duran,

I am writing to voice my concerns on the impact of the upper Rio Hondo watershed in regards to the proposed development by Taos Ski Valley. TSV is located in the incredibly sensitive headwaters of one of the most major drainages in Taos County, and every possible impact upon the watershed should be exhaustively investigated.

A thorough EIS should happen for the proposed large mid mountain restaurant with its obvious use of large quantities of water, increased traffic (not just in winter), and placement in a subalpine environment.

A thorough EIS should happen for the proposed 5,000,000 gallon water tank at the base of lift #2. This is an immense amount of water considering the volume of the upper Rio Hondo. The allocation of this water is a huge deal for downstream users. Beyond the so-called need for snowmaking, the other underlying future uses of this infrastructure (real estate development adjacent to the Upper Lake Fork of the Rio Hondo) need to be discussed and studied thoroughly.

A thorough EIS should happen for the proposed gondola and its possible impacts to the upper Lake Fork of the Rio Hondo, most importantly the installation process.

The EIS processes should be conducted by entities that do not have underlying connections or conflicts of interest with any interested parties

A consultation with Taos Pueblo should occur, to ensure that cultural, and spiritual areas are taken into account and respected.

With what I've personally seen the last few years in Taos Ski Valley, it makes me wonder whether there is any accountability whatsoever when it comes to considering the concerns of anyone who is not in favor of the desires of the TSV resort system. The Upper Rio Hondo is a gem of the Southern Rockies, and it should be treated as so, with full respect, and full consideration towards any future alterations that could adversely affect the ecosystem.

Do your job. Ensure that what actions or inactions that are taken now are carefully considered for the future generations.

Respectfully,
Patrick Grace