Carson National Forest
208 Cruz Alto Road
Taos, NM 87571

Attention:    Paul Schilke
 paul.schilke@usda.gov
 928.339.5052

Re: Taos Ski Valley, Scoping

May 5, 2022

Dear Paul, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

We write to support the detailed and thorough analysis of an EIS to study and consider the proposed “Improvements” project because of the dramatic change in management these changes would bring and the impacts on the natural community as well as on the visitor experience.

TSV has grown and expanded since a Special Use Permit was first granted years ago, and now a massive resort is proposed by the Carson National Forest and adjacent development on private land in association with the TSV. Past developments have resulted in serious damage to the spruce-fir and wildlife habitat resulting in a “sacrifice area” for wildlife and wildlife habitat, and water quality and quantity. Damage to the natural community in this area is extensive, and the list of interacting plants and animals that would be further damaged is long. A whole ecosystem is at stake.

We see the drastic changes in Williams Lake, a site loved and appreciated by the several communities who live near Taos and visitors to Taos County. We are concerned about the cumulative impacts of the proposed development, especially regarding water quality and quantity. In this time of climate change and historic drought, the cumulative effect of proposed development merits close attention. The Rio Hondo is a very important artery for both the human and natural communities of the area downstream from the TSV, and impacts on it and on groundwater in the area are complex and require thorough analysis. This is close to our home and we would be affected by such development. The importance of this cannot be over-emphasized.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in strong support of an EIS in this process.

Respectfully,

Susan Morgan

The Rewilding Institute

P.O. Box 442

Arroyo Seco, NM 87514