

Proposed development at Taos Ski Valley

From: Larry Herrera

(b) (5)

To Whom It may concern;

I am submitting this protest letter against any further development at Taos Ski Valley. I was part of a group named "Committee To Save The Rio Hondo" which in the latter part of the 1970's fought against the pollution of the Rio Hondo. Many residents of downriver communities and also from other communities marched, filed law suits and had many conversations with the Forest Service officials. After years of work there was an agreement to limit expansion at the Taos Ski Valley and especially limited recreation activity during the summer months when downstream "parciantes" (water right owners) are using the waters of the Rio Hondo for irrigation. The acequia Madre Del Llano, of which I am a parciente, has the oldest priority date, April 1815, of any other water users on the Rio Hondo. The priority water right gives the Rio Hondo claim to all waters that drain into the Rio Hondo. This includes tributaries and springs in short all water in the Twining watershed. The current Forest Service personnel and the developers of Taos Ski Valley have not had the courtesy of meeting with representatives of the downstream communities to discuss their plans. I belong to Community Association of Arroyo Hondo which has been in existence for over 20 years. It would seem appropriate to have consulted with our community through this association. I see no way that more building of hotels, associated businesses and 2nd homes will not impact the quantity and quality of the Rio Hondo. This proposed expansion is a total disrespect of the environment and the descendants of the settlers of Arroyo Hondo in 1815, as well as all other Rio Hondo Communities. Ya Basta! Enough!



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