

Forest Supervisor James Duran, April 6, 2023  
c/o Paul Schilke, Winter Sports Coordinator: **Concerning: the proposed expansion of the Taos Ski Valley Business or Businesses**

This issue concerns me as a person who lives in Taos County, and as an environmentally conscious human being. I am totally **against** allowing the Ski Valley business owned by Mr. Bacon to expand in any way. I am downstream of the Taos Ski Valley. I have owned a business in Arroyo Seco (Claireworks Gallery) for 26 years, and I have a home in Arroyo Hondo.

First my business, during the time that the Ski Valley has changed hands during the ski season my business has declined 35%. Why? The participants are flown in, driven from the airport to the ski valley and they are stuck there for the duration of their visit. In addition, the few independent visitors are too broke after spending \$195 a day for a ticket (not including rentals or snacks) to consider shopping at my gallery.

I live in Lower Arroyo Hondo which is a traditional and modest neighborhood ...and I love it for its long-time full-time residents. My neighbors are losing their water in their wells. How are the people of this community going to pay for their dry wells? How are they going to water their gardens if the ditches are deprived of water?

*This issue reminds me of trickle-down economics. Drip, drip (it never happened) instead the rich got richer and the poor became poorer. As the ski valley gets greener and needs more and more water to meet the needs of their public the lower communities will get drier.*

People in Arroyo Hondo love their homes, love the land and many of us irrigate to keep our fields green. Having a community at the top of the water chain (Taos Ski Valley) growing and demanding more resources considering that most of these folks are there are on vacation or have few financial concerns is a serious mistake. There is no way that multiple homes and services and whatever can be put up on the mountain without affecting and creating great harm to the communities below. As climate changes and the earth warms, we should not be indulging people to build fancy part time vacation homes or to find ways to increase their revenues, we need to be thinking about the world our grandchildren will inherit.

Claire Haye (b) (5)



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