



## Taos Valley Acequia Association

Taos County Juan I. Gonzales Agricultural Center

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April 4, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Duran:

We are aware that the US Forest Service is analyzing a proposal by Taos Ski Valley Inc. for a variety of projects in the Upper Watershed of the Rio Hondo. Your records will show that our organization provided comments during scoping and that we have been active participants, on behalf of Acequia Members that rely on the waters of the Rio Hondo.

We were present at the most recent Public Meeting held on March 23, 2023, where it was apparent that our Acequias continue to request additional engagement from the Forest Service on the Taos Ski Valley proposals. To that end we recommend that the National Environmental Policy Act team from the Forest Service reach out and invite the Rio Hondo Acequia Commissions, Mutual Domestic Consumer Association Commissions, and Land Grant Commissions to participate as Cooperating Agencies. As you know, the Lead Agency (USFS) may invite the participation of entities with special expertise with respect to any environmental issue associated with a proposal undergoing analysis.

We, at TVAA, would be willing to assist you in your outreach by providing the contact information for the groups named above. Should you have any questions please feel to call at (575) 758-9461.

Sincerely,

Sam DesGeorges  
President

*The Taos Valley Acequia Association ensures the long-term sustainability of traditional agricultural communities of the Taos Valley by protecting water rights and preserving and strengthening the acequia system.*