

To: Forest Supervisor James Duran, c/o Paul Schilke, Winter Sports Coordinator, Carson National Forest

Mr. Duran, appreciate your consideration of the following comments regarding the Taos Ski Valley Draft Plan:

The proposed water tank is simply an additional supply mechanism, and it will provide more efficient use of the water that we currently consume in Taos Ski Valley. It will also provide a much better fire suppression system in the event a fire comes up the valley. It does not create additional water use, just needed supply capacity.

The gondola is a clean-energy, modern, people mover that will replace vehicles on Twining Road, which in turn create dust and runoff that impact the waters of the Rio Hondo. The gondola would not prohibit access to any public lands. It will also reduce congestion on the front side in the core area.

Snowmaking uses and returns clean, chemical-free, water back into the ground. Increasing snow-making capability will not create a larger water need, as the ski valley's usage does not exceed its quantity of water rights.

On-mountain improvements of chairlifts and restaurants are long overdue and will significantly improve the ski experience for guests, resulting in large economic benefit and increased tourism.

Since 1979, my family and I have had a home in Taos Ski Valley. My wife and I have been skiing and hiking there since we were kids, and our three children have grown up skiing there. It's a place that's near and dear to our hearts, as

is New Mexico. We are both native New Mexicans, and I've been around Taos since the 1950's-60's when I had cousins and aunts and uncles there. I appreciate the importance of water, along with its complicated history in NM, and believe that the ski valley's water use within its allotment is very important to us as residents there. It is also critically important to the economy of not just Taos, but to all of northern NM. The ski valley creates tremendous economic impact in the form of employment and tourist dollars and great financial benefit to state and local governments, the Forest Service, and the private sector as well.

I urge you to approve the development plan as submitted for Taos Ski Valley, as it will enhance both residents' and visitors' experiences in the forest and at the resort without detriment to downstream water use.

Thank you very much!

Alan

Alan Vorenberg

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