

---

**From:** joanie berde [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 8:42 AM  
**To:** FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office  
**Subject:** [External Email]Taos Ski Valley Gondola and Other Improvements Project Final EA/Draft DN/FONSI

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[External Email]

If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic; Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: [Spam.Abuse@usda.gov](mailto:Spam.Abuse@usda.gov)

Dec.3,2024

Michiko Martin- Regional Forester  
333 Broadway Blvd.SE  
Albuquerque,NM 87102

On behalf of Carson Forest Watch Citizens' Group in Taos County, the following is our objection to the Taos Ski Valley Gondola and Other Improvements Project Final EA, Draft DN/FONSI :

While we appreciate the efforts of the Carson to add some additional monitoring of water quality to address one of the concerns from the public, this project still fails to address many other issues of concern and importance. The Cumulative Effects analysis failed to fully disclose and address how the many recent, proposed, and future developments at TSV have affected numerous forest resources of concern. The huge amount of disturbance, displacement, and continued construction, trails, infrastructure, noise,etc. has negatively affected watershed, wildlife, and wilderness.

By approving a gondola, in both winter and summer, the Forest Service has further threatened species of concern, including rare pine marten, and ptarmigan. The area around and including TSV contains some of the only viable habitat and documented populations for these species in NM, and the Forest Service has a legal obligation to protect these species from declining further. Climate Change and warming temps and reduced snow cover was not addressed in the Final EA or Draft DN as well for these species. The cumulative effects of the proposed developments at TSV on these species was not adequately disclosed, and additional measures need to be put in place to protect these species.

The Forest Service has an obligation to insure protection of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness, and the gondola and Kachina Basin developments threaten Wilderness values. There needs to be strict restrictions of gondola use and numbers, yet besides only the first year of use limits being proposed- the Carson states there will be "flexibility", and may reduce limits in the future, which does not adequately protect the Wilderness into the future. This needs to be changed, with limits made a permanent feature.

Please address the above concerns, and add protection measures that will do more to protect marten and ptarmigan.

Sincerely,  
Joanie Berde  
[REDACTED]