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First name: Miranda

Last name: Parrish

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster project. Such a project conflicts with the appeal and purpose of National Forests like Cibola. The purpose of this project is to "increase multi-seasonal recreational opportunities at Sandia Peak Ski Area", but a roller coaster is a passive recreation experience that clashes with other activities in the area (like skiing and hiking) and would detract from the most popular activities that bring visitors to the forest.

The most recent 2016 USDA Forest Service National Visitor Use Monitoring data [available at <https://apps.fs.usda.gov/nvum/results/A03003.aspx/FY2016> and uploaded as a file attachment] for Cibola includes Activity Participation data describing the percent of visitors who participated in each activity and the percent whose selected it as their main reason for visiting the forest. The majority of visitors participated in "Viewing Natural Features" (81.3%), "Hiking / Walking" (66.8%), and "Relaxing" (65.9%). Furthermore, the results also show that viewing natural features and hiking/walking are the primary reasons people visit the Cibola in the first place; when asked to choose a main reason for visiting, the majority of visitors (63.7%) listed one of these two activities as their main activity (21.5% listed "Viewing Natural Features" and 42.2% listed "Hiking / Walking").

If the main appeal of the area is for viewing nature, hiking, and relaxation what, exactly, does a roller coaster bring? Adding a roller coaster requires destroying natural features of the land with construction and introducing an ugly, noisy mechanical structure and screaming riders; it adds nothing of real value to visitors for an unrecoverable price.

Sandia peak is an irreplaceable, damageable, one-of-a-kind resource and sacred to the Sandia Pueblo. A roller coaster is a gimmick for dime-a-dozen tourist traps.