

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/19/2018 7:03:04 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mt Rose Ski Tahoe - Atoma Area Project dEIS comments, RESUBMITTED due to being lost by the USFS

I had sent in a comment letter on the dEIS for the Atoma area ski expansion of the Mount Rose resort. This letter was, apparently lost, as it does not appear in the list of letters received. So at this late date, barely before the deadline for submittal, I tender the following comments. The original information was incomplete as I understood it, and so I modify my statement on which of the dEIS alternatives I support; they are Alternatives 2 and 3.

As a long-time resident of Reno, spanning the 1982 - 1994 time frame, and leading up to the land exchange, negotiated by the American Land Conservancy, and spearheaded politically by Senator Richard Bryan, we finally believed that the residents of the region, principal users of the 3500-odd acres of land to the U.S. Forest Service, had secured this area, known by many locally, from any further commercial development. It was our stated goal to be sure that such developments of these lands would be made illegal by state or federal law: the area is one of the more outstanding wild areas so close to a metropolitan center, featuring high canyons, valleys that become carpeted with multicolored wildflowers including the Mount-Rose Rose (a truly beautiful plant endemic to the area.)

I was disturbed to understand that, somehow, the USFS had worked a section of the No Action Alternative that would have allowed commercial development of this land. This we opposed specifically for years, knowing how special the land was, and how it ought to be set aside, that anybody can walk anywhere on it without the worry about crossing into private property, or property restricted by (whatever) commercial development the Very Rich People can come up with to sully the area. After all the work we did, I adamantly OPPOSE any concession in the dEIS allowing commercial development on the area: after all, we compromised with the USFS, grudgingly, that some hundreds of acres would be ceded from the property to the Mount Rose Ski Resort, in return for what we thought was the guarantee of maintaining the rest of the property obtained in the 1994 land exchange strictly for noncommercial, public use.

Sincerely yours

William A. Peppin

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