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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm glad that La Plata County has a vibrant ski industry in the Purgatory Resort, and support this neighbor and the tourist economy that it represents. But any industry in this fragile ecosystem must be in balance with our other neighbors - the wildlife and flora that also inhabit this land, and give it its beauty.

Purgatory Resort's current plan to go forward with the Ice Creek Lift Pod is unacceptable for multiple reasons: destruction of the habitat depended on by lynx, a vulnerable and vital part of the local fauna chain, and damaging impacts on the cutthroat trout population, another ecosystem link and tourist draw that has shown its vulnerability in recent years.

I request that the San Juan National Forest require a detailed analysis of climate change consequences by all projects proposed on our national forest, including ski area expansions.

Therefore, the Forest Service needs to slow the environmental analysis process to allow consideration of possible ski run development in areas not destructive to lynx and trout habitat, and allow time for the Fish and Wildlife's analysis on lynx activity and habitat in the Purgatory area. I also ask that Purgatory be required to undertake a thorough greenhouse gas/carbon footprint analysis of any development schemes.

Thank you.