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Comments: To Whom it concerns:

As a resident of the Four Corners Area, I have been fortunate to spend a lot of time in the San Juan Mountains over the past 32 years and experiencing intimate interactions in both heavily traveled and little traveled areas of the San Juan National Forest from its canyons to its highest peaks. Sadly, in that time, I have personally observed the degradation of the myriad ecosystems within the San Juan National Forest due to human greed and its impacts, either intentional or unintentional.

Many species of animals struggle as humans fragment their habitat rapidly alter their habitats, especially as a result of changing climate.

So, when I learned of the proposed Ice Creek Lift Pod at Purgatory potentially being resurrected, I found it disturbing on multiple levels.

First, the forest in that area is vibrant with health stands of forest. This forest provides habitat for multiple species, including lynx, AND such forests are needed to mitigate climate change.

Secondly, decreasing snow fall at Purgatory Resort and warming temperatures at its base making its beginner areas less appealing are directly a result of a changing climate. How odd that ski resorts would propose projects that have a significant carbon footprint when it is carbon emissions that threaten the snowfall upon which ski areas depend.

Third, native Colorado cutthroat trout are in serious trouble, and the East Hermosa Creek is one of the streams in which they live.

Not to mention that wanton destruction of habitat just so humans can amuse themselves is a dangerous way of relating to our home -- a way of relating that will make our home less liveable for all of us (non-humans included here.)

So, the proposed Ice Creek Lift Pod should not be considered until alternatives with less impact have been considered, until US Fish and Wildlife has had an opportunity to complete its analysis on lynx activity, until it can be determined with certainty that cutthroat trout habitat. Furthermore, given that greenhouse gas emissions are the number one threat to forest resilience, the USFS must consider the carbon footprint of this project. If the carbon footprint is not net zero (which it likely cannot be), then this type of project threatens the health and wellbeing of all the San Juan National Forest.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.