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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

As a neighbor to the Sandia Peak Ski Area, I oppose the establishment of the Mountain Coaster. The proposed construction of a mountain coaster and a concessions building would have detrimental effects to the health and wellbeing of the natural ecosystem, people, and animals living in the area.

The habitat is already fragile and prone to forest fires. Activities such as those proposed would increase habitat destruction, local pollution, and fire risk. Animals living in the area are already subject to threats from automobiles and related risks.

There are already many activities permitted at Sandia Peak, including walking, running, hiking, biking, observation, skiing, and other activities. The request for passive activities is not supported by public health needs. More than half of Americans are overweight or obese. Children increasingly suffer from obesity and diseases we did not see in children even ten years ago. New Mexicans disproportionately suffer from chronic diseases, compared with many other Americans. As a physician, I commonly see and treat patients with these chronic diseases. And as a public health specialist, I can share that there are evidence-based community interventions that can help prevent these diseases. Encouraging and promoting physical activity, instead of sedentary activities, in outdoor areas is one such strategy.

I urge you to not proceed with the proposed Mountain Coaster.

Sincerely,

Hope Ferdowsian, MD, MPH