

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/2/2021 9:21:03 PM

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Organization:

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Comments: March 2, 2021

The Sandia Peak Ski Area special use area is enjoyed by a diverse population who enjoy a diverse type of recreational experience including photography, art, bird watching, guided hikes, educational workshops and those seeking both the experience of the vast scenic views as well as the peace and solitude of the forested trails.

The Mountain Coaster Project at Sandia Peak Ski Area will, in my unique experience as a former Public Information Specialist and Naturalist for both the National Park Service and the National Forest Service, be incompatible with the current uses. My reasons are as follows:

Noise: the noise generated by the coaster and the track it will run on will adversely impact the enjoyment by any participants listed in the above recreation pursuits. It will also adversely impact the wildlife in and near the area.

Glare from coaster system: Reflected light, glare off the coaster system will also adversely impact the enjoyment of the scenic beauty and appreciation of the National Forest ecosystem. This will be true from areas east of the area, east of the mountain all the way to Santa Fe.

Fragmentation of the Forested treed strip between ski trails: the fragmentation of the forest between the two cleared ski trails will increase heat, radiation exposure, evaporation from trees, soil and the general ecosystem, reduction of snow retention and opening the east slope to more wind damage to standing trees and slopes.

Additional tree removal to accommodate the coaster track: the removal of additional trees for the coaster creates more exposure to all the natural elements and adds to the visible scar seen from east mountains and Santa Fe.

The Sandia Peak Ski Area has provided beginning, moderate and to a lesser degree advanced skiers a beautiful mountain winter experience for many years. Our climate's warming has reduced the length of the ski season for this mountain as compared to Santa Fe, Taos, Durango, Vail, Wolf Creek and more northern ski areas. It is not surprising that the Sandia Peak and tram company want to add additional commercially viable enterprises to the Special Use Area. The very special experience of a mountain ecosystem is completely unlike the urban experience of "Uncle Cliffs Family Land" in Albuquerque, New Mexico. And the National Forest is not in any way a man made suburb of a city. The special quality and extraordinary opportunity to leave a city like Albuquerque and in less than an hour physically arrive on the Sandia Mountains is both the challenge and the pleasure of National Forest Land Managers. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.