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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As I think back to a late spring morning, the sun shining on the east slope of the Sandia Mountains, I exited my car to pay the parking fee at the 10K trailhead. The parking lot was starting to get full, I hurried to get my dog on the trail. Hiking south, we bypassed horseback riders as they were taking photos, probably enjoying the clear view of the horizon. We continued on, hearing only birds chirping and the occasional hum of a motorcycle driving up the Sandia Crest road in the distance. It was quiet, nobody was near. It took awhile before we crossed paths with any other hiker or mountain biker. As we approached the Sandia ski area, we saw a few more people. Far enough away, we continued to zig and zag through the ski runs of Sandia peak. It was getting warmer and still, silence remained. Only sounds of nature. A lovely sense of serenity, I stopped for a coffee break just off to the side of the trail.

I realize days like this are probably a normal adventure for a lot of Bernalillo and Tarrant county residents, or anyone who loves the outdoors. As a native northern New Mexican, the Sandia Mountains and Cibola National Forest are a great, convenient escape as I now reside in Albuquerque.

The mountains provide much needed public land, to the people, in order to recreate responsibly the way they choose. These options, all free from corporate hands, while also allowing access to the tranquility of the mountain.

I imagine this being a lot different if a mountain coaster was added as an attraction on the same east slope, which I had previously mentioned.

Chaos and noise. Destruction and development. Removing trees and relocating wildlife and trails.

I ask you to please not allow people to destroy the integrity of those lands by building this coaster. It will not serve any good. Let's entice people with nature and serenity, not development.