

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/24/2021 7:12:05 PM

First name: Steve

Last name: Spence

Organization:

Title:

Comments: In relation to this project i ask, in a time when climate change threatens our forests in New Mexico more than ever, whether this project is in the best interest of our stewardship of the area? To purposefully remove such a large swath of growth seems to fly in the face of conservation efforts that we should be emphasizing at this time.

I also question the "need" of the project as proposed. I understand and support the idea that there should be activities open to everyone, regardless of skill level, but it seems to me that this activity is more about the activity, and not the surroundings. That is, as one is zipping through the grove of trees that is no longer there, i doubt that this offers anything to the rider in appreciation of it, other than the angle of the incline. I would submit that more picnic areas or lower-impact trails could and would fulfill the same need, and would increase the appreciation of the actual place that one is in. In the long run, I believe that this would make more people appreciate and care about the area more.

And although the project claims to be consistent with the Forest Plan, I question whether the Plan has incorporated the concerns that have come to rise in the last 20 years due to climate change. I'm sure that the Ski Area understands this, as opportunities to use the existing site seem to diminish with each passing year. They will need something to replace the runs when there are weeks and more weeks without good snow. Again, while this might be in the best interest of the Ski Area, I don't think this is doing the best for the Sandias.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.