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Comments: I oppose the proposed Sandia Mountain Coaster for many reasons. First, the Sandia Wilderness Area, that straddles both sides of the coaster proposal area, was designated to protect endangered public lands. The Wilderness Area has successfully protected old growth trees and certain species of wildlife. A roller coaster ripping down the mountain will disturb the existing ecology and wildlife. A roller coaster is out of line with protection and conservation of wild lands and wildlife. The industrial noise will disturb wildlife habitat, affecting the integrity of the adjacent lands, which are designated Wilderness Areas.

Secondly, the current uses of the proposed project area land will be compromised. Certain ski runs will be off limits and mountain biking will be limited. Moreover, hikers will no longer be able to enjoy taking refuge in the wilderness. Instead the natural experience will be overshadowed with the loud clicks and clacks and banging of a roller coaster, not to mention the constant screaming of people being whisked down the mountainside. I hike the Sandias regularly. Putting in a coaster will severely compromise my use and enjoyment of the recreational areas available throughout the Sandia Mountains.

Lastly, what are the plans for construction of the coaster? How long will construction impact use of the mountain; what will the associated destruction be? What are the plans should the coaster need maintenance? How will that affect access to the public lands?

This project will create a private enterprise on public lands. It will disturb the nearby Wilderness Areas and it will limit the multiple uses currently available. It also does not represent the local land ethic of Albuquerque's citizens. I am not unique in my opposition to this project. I love our Sandia Mountains and would be very disappointed to have them transformed all for a supposed profit or thrill ride ripping down the mountainside. Roller coasters have their place: a sacred mountain side is not that.