

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/30/2021 7:00:55 PM

First name: Joan

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear District Ranger Powell,

I am writing to urge the Forest Service to protect the beauty, quiet and natural resources in the Sandia mountains that are threatened by the construction of the Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster Project. I am a weekly hiker in that area of the Sandias and have been for decades.

1) The construction and maintenance of the coaster would require the removal of a significant number of old growth trees which in turn would have a negative impact on the entire ecosystem. It would drive animals from an area that is now their home.

2) The fact that the ski area is already operating in that location, does not mean that the tracks for the coaster and construction of "concessions" will not have a further deleterious effect.

3) The Sandias are a unique refuge from urban life in Albuquerque. Adding the mountain coaster will harm the natural atmosphere and lessen its character as a relief from the human-dominant landscape.

4) The creation of a mountain coaster will mean disruption to the quiet and peace of the mountain far beyond what already exists from the ski area. Because the mountain coaster will be active year round it will create a year round disruption. This will impact wildlife as well as human visitors to the mountains.

5) The noise generated by the mountain coaster will have an impact far beyond the route of the mountain coaster, polluting a great swath of what is now prime hiking territory.

6) The principal beneficiaries of this project would seem to be the owners of the Sandia Ski Area who are looking for a way to bring more people to their restaurant and extend their ability to charge people for coming to the mountains beyond the ski season. Their benefit pales in comparison to the loss of recreation opportunities for hikers, birders, photographers, and others seeking the joys of nature.

7) There are plenty of places around Albuquerque where people can go fast and eat hotdogs. The Sandia Mountain's character will be irreparably harmed by the addition of the mountain coaster, depriving thousands of people who visit the right to enjoy the peace and beauty of nature.

Please act to reject the mountain coaster proposal. Thank you!

kind regards,

Joan Quinn