

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/30/2021 8:38:53 PM

First name: Kurt

Last name: Nolte

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Crystal Powell, District Ranger

11776 Hwy 337

Tijeras, NM 87059

RE: Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster Project

Dear Ms Powell:

I am a long-term New Mexico resident who has spent over 30 years hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting deer, birding, and foraging for wild mushrooms in the Sandia Mountains. My wife and I have raised our children with these activities. We instilled in them an appreciation of nature and taught them to value wild spaces and intact habitats. I want to express my opposition to the proposed Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster Project. I believe that the National Forest is not a theme park and the Coaster Project is incompatible with the habitat and the needs of many of the users of this space. All the activities of the Coaster Project and their associated components generate noise including:

- *The coaster and riders
- *The cable ropeway return track
- *The terminal building machinery
- *The food and beverage concession

The noise generated by these activities will have a significant impact on mule deer for which this area is their summer range. Mule deer are already beleaguered by the impact of housing development on their winter range. Loud activities and crowds will negatively impact their reproductive success and move the deer into less suitable (more limited forage) summer habitat.

The noise generated by the Coaster Project and their customers will also impact the quiet users of the mountain (e.g., birders, hikers, bow hunters, and mushroom foragers). As a physician, an analogy comes to mind. We no longer allow people to smoke in public places where their smoke is harmful to others. Why should we be allowing the creation of a private amusement park ride that disrupts the wildlife on the mountain and the public's quiet users?

I ask you to deny the request to develop the Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster Project. I suggest that the developers find private land on which to construct their private business.

Sincerely,

Kurt B. Nolte, MD