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First name: Thomas

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Crystal Powell, District Ranger, Sandia Ranger District,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster. I was born and raised in Albuquerque and, like most Burquenxs, I have a deep cultural attachment to the Sandia mountains and foothills. It is in the Sandias that I learned through experience about the importance of ecological conservation. It was in the Sandias that I learned ethics of human relations with nature, and the significance of stewardship for the lands about which we care deeply. I hope I can share those experiences with my two-year-old son as he grows up, and impart an ethic for the land.

I understand that as the Sandia District Ranger you must take a great deal of pride in your work, as the steward of the land for which so many Burquenxs and New Mexicans have grown deeply attached. In this regard, I have so much respect for you and your work. I hope you will consider alternatives to this project and their proposal which will bear a substantial impact on the pristine wilderness of Cibola National Forest. I hope my son can experience the forest landscape without the burden of major anthropogenic impacts and engineered technological infrastructure for some gimmicky leisure sport. In a place where visual aesthetics mean a great deal to the multicultural population, we need to be skeptical of the scare in the land the proposed Mountain Coaster will leave.

I also want to recognize that we are on Indigenous lands. I hope you will consider the implications of desecrating sacred places of Tiwa peoples, as well as the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior and informed consent regarding any private development on their greater ancestral landscape, particularly mountains like Sandia, which are considered sacred deities.

Thank you for considering my public comment. I hope you will pursue alternatives to this untenable leisure development project that is in direct violation of ecological conservation ethics that many New Mexicans learn in places like the Sandias.