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Title:

Comments: I'm writing to comment on the proposed Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster #56985. I am disturbed that a project like this is even being considered, especially by the fact that an environmental assessment might be bypassed.

The stated purpose for building the coaster is "to increase the variety of multi-season recreational opportunities available at Sandia Peak" and to meet the needs of visitors who "enjoy more passive recreation experiences that do not require a specific skillset or physical fitness."

It is my opinion as a mountain biker and a hiker that building a coaster will not really increase the variety of multi-season recreational opportunities but will instead change and diminish those opportunities by making the site much less attractive to hikers and mountain bikers. I go hiking and mountain biking in part to enjoy the peace and quiet of being in nature. That will be lost to the disruptive sound of the coaster itself and the inevitable screams and such that go along with riding roller coasters-the sound pollution effects of which may echo very far away from the site itself, thus spoiling a lot of hiking and mountain biking opportunities in the surrounding area.

Those who enjoy roller coasters can enjoy them in the city, but we can only enjoy hiking and mountain biking in the woods, well, \*in the woods\*-that is our \*escape\* from the city.

Rather than a mountain coaster, perhaps there are less disruptive alternatives that could be incorporated. Zip lines, for example, would at least be less physically invasive and mechanically disruptive, though there might still be associated screams and the like which are undesirable. Unfortunately I have not had any time to think about this problem to come up with other alternative solutions because I just discovered the comment period today (the last day it is open).

Please do not move forward with this project!

Thanks,  
Emily