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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Ms Powell,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster Project.

I and my family have hiked the Sandia Mountains for over 30 years. We know the mountains, the trails and the wildlife quite well. I am deeply concerned with this proposed coaster project, as it is not compatible with effective management of this National Forest area. Specific issues that must be addressed include the following:

1) Impact of significant increase in road and trail utilization, both during construction and in the long term. This area is already heavily and at times overused. A specific assessment of project impacts on road and trail utilization needs to be completed, with full public input.

2) Sandia Peak and Tram, authorized many years ago, already provide major access and activities in this area. These facilities have had significant environmental impacts on wildlife and preservation of wilderness state. I doubt very much that the permit issues for the ski area extend to the character and scale of construction required to build this coaster project. A rigorous assessment of permitting issues, with full public input must be completed.

3) In the specific area of wildlife, preservation of habitats and viability of breeding areas during breeding seasons is an important component of National Forest management of this area. The Coaster project will likely have impacts in this arena, and those impacts must be fully assessed by a team with appropriate expertise.

These are important issues that are not addressed under the proposed Categorical Exclusion and should be addressed in full Environmental Impact analysis.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I will look for your responses and actions taken with respect to this proposed coaster project.