

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/31/2021 12:17:40 AM

First name: Barbara

Last name: Sundberg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to OBJECT to the Sandia Peak Ski Area Mountain Coaster #56985 for the following reasons:

I am an avid hiker and purposely have remained in Albuquerque in order to enjoy the peace and quiet of the Sandia Mountain Wilderness Area and the opportunity it avails for peaceful biking and hiking

Most concerning to me is that the Cibola National Forest is considering granting the proposal a Categorical Exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act and NOT conducting any environmental review. I worked for the Cibola National Forest when this became a Wilderness Area and am deeply offended that the Cibola National would consider operating in this manner.

-- The coaster will be within view and earshot of beloved trails such as the Crest and 10K.

-- The project is proposed to build on and around the current ski footprint. Can the landscape handle an increase in traffic in a such small area? In year one, the Mountain Coaster is estimated to have 75,000 to 100,000 riders. The Sandia Peak Tramway transports 250,000 visitors annually up and down the western slope of the Sandia Mountains and already operates at maximum capacity during most weekends and holidays. THESE QUESTIONS MUST BE ADDRESSED!

-- The Mountain Coaster would be built near the Sandia Wilderness Area and operate year-round, hugely impacting wildlife. The following threatened or endangered species may be present: New Mexico meadow jumping mouse; Mexican spotted owl; Southwestern willow flycatcher; and Yellow-billed cuckoo.

If the USFS issues a categorical exclusion there will be NO ANALYSIS on wildlife impact. THE FORREST SERVICE MUST COMPLETE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT!

--TREE CUTTING AND WOOD HARVESTING IS ONLY ALLOWED FOR DOWNED TREES WITHIN THE USFS. The construction of this coaster will require the cutting of trees in the project area, a direct violation of this policy.

I STRONGLY URGE THE USFS TO DENY THIS APPLICATION.