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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Yesterday I hiked the 10 K loop trail that winds through the lower Abruzzo ski runs and intersects with Tree Spring trail before going north across the eastern upper slope of the crest before reaching the top of the tram. For anyone even remotely interested in nature and the long term health of the Sandias it's obvious why the Abruzzo mountain coaster plan is flawed from an ethical, business and mountain safety prospective.

On my hike I saw hundreds of dead and dying trees. The Sandias are far from healthy and will only decline as climate change continues to heat the Southwest. We're currently in Stage 2 fire protocol in the Sandias. The Forest Service isn't allowing visitors to fire up fire grills for picnics, yet is not requiring the Abruzzos to complete an environmental impact statement. That's outrageous. If you allow Abruzzo's crews to construct this project you risk a major forest fire. Once it is built the risk of forest fire also increases as you will bring an amusement park crowd that in many cases has far less wilderness sensitivity than your average hiker. One careless thrill seeker could be a disaster.

From a business prospective, the ski area has long been failing and the coaster is a way for the Abruzzos to salvage their investment with another bad idea, the coaster. Do they really think enough people are going to pay the tram ride fee then spend another \$30 for a six minute ride through the trees? It just doesn't pencil and like their failing and grossly overpriced newish restaurant it's only going to be another blight on a once sacred mountain.

Ethically and morally a mountain coaster adjacent to a wilderness area would only make Aldo Leopold turn in his grave. I'd like to think the US Forest Service has a sense that its "Land of Many Uses" credo has evolved over the decades. In a world of dwindling natural resources, the acreage under your care is precious and your actions to preserve and nurture it are for the benefit of society not one well connected Albuquerque family and its business interests.