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Comments: I am opposed to the construction of the Base to Base Gondola and several of the other so called "improvements" that TSV is proposing. As a season pass holder at TSV, an avid hiker and a volunteer with the Carson N.F. trail crew, I have seen first hand the endless construction. I strongly believe that the time has come to limit the rampant environmental destruction being incurred by the Taos Ski Valley.

The construction of the gondola, a 7,300 foot eye sore, will result in the cutting down of countless trees, the disruption of the natural habitat for birds and animals and increased noise and air pollution. All of this will impact the adjoining Wheeler Peak Wilderness Area. It is already impossible to hike on the William's Lake trail without being assaulted by the smell of diesel fuel or the noise from construction equipment.
In place of the gondola, the ski area could implement an electric 4X4 bus shuttle service. Yes, those do exist.

It is time for the ski area to stop telling us that they are a "B" corporation and start acting like one. At present, it is possible to reach the backside of the mountain by taking lift #1 and #2. As a skier, it seems to me an appropriate means of access. Unfortunately we live in an age of immediate gratification and TSV is leading the way with grandiose plans which make the Carson National Forest and its bird and animal populations the losers.

I am calling on the Carson National Forest to carry out an Environmental Impact Statement before any expansion is approved. It is extremely important that we see what the effects of this expansion will be on the environment. How many trees will be lost? How much of the land will be disturbed? And whether this expansion is really needed at all. Once the area has been disturbed it will take years to recover.

The expansion of TSV is based on greed. Mr Bacon sees TSV as his little fiefdom and feels he can do as he wishes to the natural environment. When will all of the building and development come to a halt? TSV appears to have no respect for the environment and the lands that they lease from the U.S. Forest Service.

The moving and enlargement of the Whistlestop cafe seems a bit overindulgent, don't you think? The restaurant is fine just where it is and its size is more than adequate. As for a restaurant near lift #7, I am not in favor of this. Skiers can surely make it down to the base lodge before succumbing to the effects of hunger or dehydration. At present, there seems to be a sufficient number of restaurants. These include the 192, Tenderfoot Katies, The Whistlestop, The Bavarian, Cid's, The Double Diamond Coffee Shop, Rhoda's Restaurant, Cafe Naranja. And a recently opened pizzaria.

The purpose of being at a ski area is to ski or board and enjoy being outside. This is something that TSV and most other ski areas seem to have forgotten in their addiction to enlarge and renovate.

How much water will TSV be using for all of its expanded bathrooms and buildings? Has this been given consideration and thought?

We are living in a time of Climate Change, winters are becoming shorter and snow fall is diminishing. We need to preserve our natural resources, not exploit them. We need to think about what we will leave for future generations.

It is time for the Forest Service to put the brakes on this endless cycle of build, expand and make a fast buck. Let us not forget that the National Forest lands belong to the public, not Taos Ski Valley. Please make the right decisions and say no to this never ending development.