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Comments: Taos Ski Valley Gondola and Other Improvements Project

I am a long time home owner in Taos Ski Valley, and wish to provide my reasoning for supporting the Master Plan.

The proposed continuation of the Master Plan substantively addresses a number of factors that have come into play in TSV and in the ski industry over the last several years. The development of the base area and the new lift 1 have increased the people density around the base and enabled larger numbers of skiers of various abilities to move on to the hill. Because of the present lift configuration, all assemble at the top of 1 to ski the frontside, or, in most instances to catch a slower moving lift to take them to the backside. This lift opening mass movement on a busy day is disconcerting and frankly dangerous.

Furthermore, the composition of the guests on the mountain is now comprised of increasing numbers of widely travelled skiers with multi area passes who arrive at our mountain with strong expectations of an area in terms of ease of access, variety of terrain, trail maintenance, lift efficiencies, variety of food services, accommodation and so on.

The proposed gondola will spread the skier density effectively across the available terrain which is most critical at the beginning of the day. Older lifts, as proposed, are typically upgraded as a matter of course and would materially improve the efficiency of getting skiers to their desired terrain. Off season, the gondola will be purposeful in providing vacationers access to all the present and proposed recreational activities on the Kachina side. A side benefit, as noted, will accrue to the Village inasmuch as maintenance expense on Twining Road will diminish considerably. As a thirty two year homeowner on Twining, I will be thankful for less dust and seasonal cleanup related to road deterioration.

As one is led to expect from a 'B Corp' designation, all of the mechanical proposals envision minimal disturbance and in the instance of the frontside water tank will improve snowmaking efficiency as well as enhancing forest fire risk mitigation while not stressing overall water management in the Valley.

Most skiers are of a mind on restaurant optionality, quick serve certainly, challenged by increasing numbers wanting a fine dining experience in a high alpine setting which would be addressed by the proposed Lift 7 and expanded WhistleStop projects.

The natural benches of open forest that extend from the ski area toward Amizette provide an ideal setting for the proposed Nordic loop and snowshoeing terrain. This complementary extension of the overall outdoor recreational experience in Taos Ski Valley can be provided with minimal disturbance to the landscape, and the nearby facilities, with the "Gondolita" connection to the Centre, obviate the need for additional parking, washrooms etc. As with most Nordic centres, a modest, basic warmup hut would mark the trailhead.

This Master Plan has been thoughtfully developed with substantive

input from interested parties, and if approved will serve to elevate the on hill experience of the skiers and bring considerable benefits to the community at large.

Respectfully submitted

Robert M Wilkinson