

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/3/2022 2:52:10 AM

First name: Kristin

Last name: Graziano

Organization:

Title:

Comments: An Environmental Assessment is inadequate to analyze the serious and likely harmful and irreversible effects this proposed project will inflict on the fragile alpine ecosystems of the area and on the upper Rio Hondo watershed. I strongly recommend that a comprehensive and detailed Environmental Impact Study is completed before any movement forward on these proposed plans occurs. How will the project impact microenvironments, wildlife, migration corridors, trout habitat, and water quality? We need more information than what an Environmental Assessment can provide. I am gravely concerned about the extensive grading and tree/vegetation removal indicated in the scoping document. As a resident of Arroyo Seco, a parciante, and an avid hiker of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness and Carson National Forest, I am dismayed by the thought of more construction noise, disruption, heavy equipment, and exhaust on the mountain. All of this negatively impacts the solitude and quiet that our wilderness and forests should provide, both for humans and wildlife. Furthermore, I am concerned about the impact on the Rio Hondo which provides precious water for my fields and fruit trees, and for many of my neighbors' farms. In the scoping statement, it is written that the amount of water for agriculture in Taos would not be altered; if this is true, it is to be applauded. However, I am skeptical. It is not stipulated how much additional water would be necessary for the significantly expanded infrastructure and snowmaking capacity. Our drier, hotter climate, along with a shorter winter season means less water in the future. It is not clear to me how TSV has taken this into consideration, the analysis feels less than transparent. Additionally, where is the funding for this project coming from? I am absolutely against public funds, COVID relief funds, or any other non-private monies being utilized for a TSV expansion project. Lastly, while I agree with the need for reducing traffic and emissions in TSV, it seems to me there are other, less invasive, more sustainable ways of achieving this worthy goal. I encourage TSV to explore such options. Thank you for your consideration.

Kristin Graziano, Arroyo Seco