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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Review Committee,

I grew up on a small farm in Arroyo Seco and have been skiing at Taos Ski Valley since the age of 6. My father is the ditch commissioner for our acequia. My childhood had made me deeply aware of both the importance of clean water in our streams and acequias and the joys of skiing. Our communities have already observed the negative impacts of upstream expansion and development, as algae and unseen pollutants proliferate and degrade the water running through our acequias.

Taos Ski Valley lies in a uniquely narrow and steep alpine environment, which cannot support the kind of expansion TSV has proposed. A thorough investigation of the impacts on stream ecology, leading to a sound environmental impact statement is required in order to understand past repercussions of TSV development and potential future ramifications.

I question the advisability of a 5 million gallon water tank, on-mountain restaurant expansion and a frivolous gondola lift, given the context of climate change, increased prevalence of drought and concerns around water scarcity. We are fortunate to have such a comparatively pristine watershed, and it is our responsibility to steward it in a way that preserves these precious resources now and into the future.

The future of the acequias, local farming and our delicate mountain and stream ecosystems depend on the decision you will make.

Thank you for honoring this responsibility.

Gwendolyn Pieper