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Comments: We are residents of Taos Ski Valley and are very much in support of the proposed project. The various elements are all thoughtful components of a considered and well-balanced plan to upgrade and/or modernize access to and use of the outdoor recreation areas of Taos Ski Valley. Most importantly, these are all improvements to existing use zones and therefore would not expand use into more pristine wilderness areas. Outdoor recreation usage is increasing in Northern New Mexico just as it is elsewhere. Without providing safe and modernized options in existing use areas, development will more likely occur in true wilderness areas. Therefore, while all projects do have some impact, the land and environment are better served by improving existing use zones than expanding into unused zones.

The proposed Base to Kachina Basin Gondola makes sense to cut down on vehicle traffic and better spread skiers and other users around the mountain. This is consistent with the European feel of the area by using the gondola as a high alpine transportation tool. As frequent users of the Williams Lake trail we welcome the development of an alternative trail in the area to reduce the volume and impact on the Williams Lake Trail. Diverting some of this traffic (including us) to a trail within TSV makes good environmental sense. The proposed on mountain dining is needed to modernize the services and keep up with user expectations. One can always argue that you can get food elsewhere, but this modest project will help TSV keep pace with other ski areas (though maintaining its own unique flavor) and attract visitors who do contribute significantly to the economy of the region.. These along with the lift replacements and water system improvements are all thoughtful projects within the existing use zone that create better access and a better user experience without impinging upon more pristine wilderness space. Finally, the proposed Nordic trails would provide a much needed alternative for winter sports enthusiasts to enjoy an active exercise experience other than downhill skiing at TSV.