

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/28/2023 6:51:08 PM

First name: Robert

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Duran, Mr. Ladell, Mr. Duran, and Mr. Schilke

I attended the public meeting at Taos Ski Valley last week regarding the draft EA re: TSV Inc. proposed development projects. There was a large number of people in attendance that vocalized diverse commentary and confusion regarding the draft EA and proposed development plans. The confusion was not limited to the public, at times the Forest Service, Taos Ski Valley Inc., and the NEPA consultants (SE Group) also were confused with the parameters of this process and the project details. Over the course of the evening, it became abundantly clear that there should be additional public involvement in this process and extended time to evaluate these projects.

Personally, I am a fly fisherman, backcountry skier, and resident of Valdez. I am a Board Member of our local Trout Unlimited Chapter (ECTU), keep engaged with backcountry access groups/issues, and am involved with our local community/leaders in Valdez. All three of my affiliations have not been involved in this process besides submitting written comments to date; and all three have actively asked TSV Inc. and the Forest Service to better participate. I feel left out of this process and that there has not been sufficient opportunity to collaborate or solicit public input like mine. Further, the Master Development Plan was referenced repeatedly during the meeting. I can only find a presentation online by TSV Inc. regarding the plan. Can you please share the Master Development Plan with the public and ensure we have an extension of at least 30-days to review and comment on the draft EA.

Some suggestions that were raised at the public meeting last week included extending the comment period, having additional meetings in surrounding communities (Valdez, Arroyo Seco, Arroyo Hondo, Taos), and involving a facilitator. These all seem like valid suggestions that would only improve understanding of the issues at hand, foster collaboration, and involve all stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention. Sincerely,

Rob McCormack

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