

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/4/2023 6:30:45 PM

First name: Virginia

Last name: Clark

Organization:

Title:

Comments: April 3, 2023

Dear Forest Service,

I ask that a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be completed for the proposed actions up at Taos Ski Valley Resort, as outlined in the #61390 Developed Winter and Summer Resort Management Area outlined in the 2022 Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 2022), per an Environmental Assessment.

Acceptable

1. Some items are totally acceptable to me, such as replacing Lifts 2 and 8 - though higher-capacity quads are a bit over the top. The 33-acre cross-country ski/snowshoe trail area is also a great idea, as long as wildlife habitat is a primary consideration in the design.
2. The two-mile Hunzikerish-hiking trail at Lift 4 sounds great allowing intermediate, high alpine hiking experience and access to Kachina Basin amenities.

Questionable

1. The Whistlestop Café really needs the downstairs bathrooms removed. But a 4,000-ft. new building on a new area will require a whole new septic system and that needs an EIS to determine where or even "if" a new café is appropriate. Adjacent bathrooms-location sounds iffy, given water restrictions. What "skier flow" is being proposed and where?
2. Water restrictions and increased usage would also seem to be a problem for a new 7,000-square-foot restaurant near the top of Lift 7. Sewage and supply lines to and from the new space seem incredibly disruptive to the mountain. If a well is not viable, all these utilities will have to be snow-mobiled in and out.
3. The 7,300-foot-long gondola construction sounds very problematic for residents, protected wildlife species and interference to the Lake Fork section of the Rio Hondo - but without a full EIS there's no way to tell.
4. Construction and staging areas necessary to complete the projects outside U.S. Forest Service land, such as within the Village of Taos Ski Valley, are not addressed in the draft Environmental Assessment and need to be assessed for impact to the mountain.

Thank you for considering my request for a full EIS to be done on the Taos Ski Valley Inc. proposed changes.