

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/26/2023 6:00:00 AM

First name: Emily

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Duran,

I am shocked to see that Carson National Forest made the decision to conduct an EA instead of the full EIS that is necessary and was asked for by multitudes of people and organizations during the scoping period. It is the sole discretion of the FS to make that decision based their determination that project does not meet the NEPA threshold for an EIS ("significantly affect the human environment"). The comments you received during the scoping period illustrate the need for a full EIS. The scope of this project is substantial. Installing a gondola will have huge impacts on soil, erosion, wildlife, flora & fauna, the watershed, and the viewshed, etc. (all of this and then some discussed in many comment letters you received). Not only will the impacts during the construction be consequential, but the cumulative effects are something that are necessary for your study to cover. The threshold for an EIS depends on these increased impacts, and building a new lift and a new restaurant will increase visitation to a sensitive area. For you and your agency to imply that these are not significant impacts is distressing. We have a considerable amount of information and background on all these comments, and we implore you to pull your EA and complete the full EIS as should have been done in the first place. There are also no alternatives addressed in your EA, which is mandatory. It discusses the alternatives as just parts of the project, but never gives any as an option. I have never seen an EA/EIS without at least 5 alternatives that people can comment back on. A 30-day comment period with no comment sessions in the community (except the one all the way up in Taos Ski Valley) is not adequate for a Development Plan of this size. We are asking that you please think about the community here and extend the comment period to 90 days and consider drafting a full EIS to replace the inadequate draft EA that was presented to the public for comment.

I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing back from you.

Respectfully,

Emily Sadow