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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I'm aware of the proposed project at the Taos Ski Area within Carson National Forest to build a gondola to connect the base to base operations at the area. I'm a backcountry skier, and frequent resorts as well and the Taos area is blessed with access to both. I have real concerns about access for backcountry skiers remaining with the current project proposal!

I assume like many if not most projects on USFS Public Lands an Environmental Impact Statement will be conducted that includes alternatives to the Proposed Action based on input received from public comments such as mine. Alternatives without the base-to-base gondola should be considered and without the water tank and booster station.

Can I assume all facts, including the incorrect water rights assumption in the EA will be thoroughly reviewed for accuracy prior to any decision? Am I also correct to assume the EIS will consider Taos Ski Valley's proposals in line with of the resort's Actual water rights which I understand to be 21.45 acre-feet, and limited to 0.11 acre-feet of daily use allowed between the months of April 11 and October 25? Any EIS should I assume will analyze alternatives that place TSVI's potential water usage in context of the resort's allocated water rights!

I am also aware that the EA fails to disclose impacts to public lands access which is extremely concerning. The EIS must consider how the gondola will affect public access to the Williams Lake trailhead with specific analysis considering winter access in the winter which under the proposed plan will eliminate access.

Given the likely impacts to Wilderness access and the negative results for other users, the US Forest Service should deny the base-to-base gondola. Water in the SW is a real concern and the implications of this proposal for all communities downstream are potentially compromised. The US Forest Service should place a hold on any decision until all facts are clarified and understood on any consideration of the 5 million gallon water tank, booster station, and proposed restaurant until the Village of Taos Ski Valley's water infrastructure is stabilized within the framework of proposed plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Angela Hawse