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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I hope this finds the reader well. I am a Taos local and passionate user of public lands in the area, including the Wheeler Wilderness in all seasons. I backcountry ski and hike the area frequently, being blessed to have such an amazing area in my backyard. The outdoors are a critical component in managing my fitness and mental health.

I have been a patron of the ski valley for 15 years now, since they allowed snowboarders, and I am generally in favor of the efforts that are being undertaken to improve facilities, lifts, etc. Options to move customers to different areas of the mountain, such as the gondola, make sense and could be a benefit for the the company and users of the area.

However, I am extremely concerned that the proposal will unfold in a way that shifts access from the public to solely TSV discretion. The public access easements in Taos County are under assault from private land owners as evidenced by the unilateral (and high likely illegal) move by a local landowner to close the Outerlink Access Trail in the Talpa foothills. Preserving public access must happen and TSV and local land owners cannot be allowed to close easements are restrict access to public lands. This includes seeking to monetize public access in one of the poorest counties in New Mexico.

Three critical areas that must remain open to the public are road access to Kachina Rd and the Wheeler Peak Hikers parking lot and the easement throughout the ski area property to the Williams Lake Trail. Language and guardrails that preserve this access is critical as public land access is under attack. The ski area can accomplish it's goals to modernize and make improvements while truly caring for the community by preserving this access.

Thank you for you review and consideration of my comments.