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Comments: to Forest Service personnel:

Human and environmental health, and the health of generational cultures in this area are at stake with Taos Ski Valley Inc.'s proposed action. Please take public comments seriously and revisit the impact on water quality or quantity in the Rio Hondo Watershed as well as public access to the Wilderness.

This project MUST be analyzed with an Environmental Impact Statement that includes alternatives to the Proposed Action based on input received from public comments. The range of alternatives should include alternatives without the base-to-base gondola and without the water tank and booster station.

THE WATER RIGHTS ASSUMPTION IN THE ES IS INCORRECT. The EIS should consider Taos Ski Valley's proposals in light of the resort's actual water rights of 21.45 acre-feet, which is limited to 0.11 acre-feet of daily use allowed between April 11th and October 25th. The EIS should analyze an alternative that places TSVI's potential water usage in context of the resort's allocated water rights.

THE EA FAILS TO DISCLOSE IMPACTS TO PUBLIC LAND ACCESS. The EIS must consider how the gondola will affect public access to the Williams Lake trailhead. This analysis must include consideration of winter access. Given the likely negative impacts to Wilderness access the Forest Service should deny the base-to-base gondola.

The Forest Service should hold off on considering the 5 million gallon water tank, booster station, and new restaurant until the Village of Taos Ski Valley's water infrastructure is stabilized.