

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/22/2023 11:09:12 PM

First name: Shayla

Last name: Blatchford

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an avid hiker of the William's Lake trail, I ask that you acknowledge this place as a sanctuary for all who access it. Please consider how the gondola will affect public access to the trailhead. Given the likely negative impacts to Wilderness access the Forest Service should deny the base-to-base gondola.

Before any developments can be made on this project, TSVI needs to provide 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. Local community members are also concerned that the increased water use from TSVI's proposals wouldn't be sustainable with the limited amount of water available in the Rio Hondo Watershed, especially given the fact that the Village of Taos Ski Valley and the ski resort already run into issues with their water systems when visitation is high. The water rights assumption in the EA 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.

A luxury ski resort that survives mostly off of seasonal tourists should not have this much authority over the local communities access to historical trails and the quality of water. How do you expect a community to make an educated decision on such a project when a thorough Environmental Impact Statement can't even be provided? Please provide adequate information now so we don't have to find ourselves divided even further from one another because of neglect and consideration to communities on your end. Thank you for your time and consideration.