

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/23/2023 2:44:46 AM

First name: Irene

Last name: Vasquez

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am a college educator who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We have outreach programs that serve students in the Taos area. Our courses ask students to analyze their local historical context and ancestral cultures in order to imagine a vibrant, healthy, and sustainable future. Perhaps, the investors of the Taos Ski Valley should become more educated about what is in the interests of the local communities. Taos is an Indigenous pueblo, home to the original peoples of the area and to later established land-based communities that are committed to ensuring fragile ecosystems. Given recent climates disasters and the lack of access to clean water for many inhabitants of the state, the proposal to expand the Taos Ski Valley is at best naive and irresponsible, and at worst, a deliberate act to jeopardize the economic base and life ways of local residents. The advocates and funders of this proposal should pull up stakes and leave the posterity of the Taos area to those who have prioritized the best interests of nature, the environment, and all life forms. All of our futures on this planet are tied together. And, if anyone is in denial about this notion of an interconnected future, they need to go back and hit the books not the slopes.