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First name: Hannah

Last name: Heaton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Taos ski valley expansion needs to be stopped for further environmental impact assessment.

So far an Environmental Assessment (EA) rather than a more robust Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the only research that has been conducted to allow the Forest Service to approve the expansion project.

Taos Ski Valley(TSV) proposed project from the 2021 MDP ultimately seeks to increase the number of people that can access the ski area at the same time. This season, TSVI shut down twice because of water infrastructure failures. The TSV has also proposed installing a 5-million-gallon water storage tank in order to allow for a significant increase in snowmaking.

There is reason to be 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.

There is also reason to question whether TSVI has an adequate plan for dealing with increased septic and wastewater loads, which the EA doesn't analyze at all. Any untreated or under-treated wastewater will end up in the Rio Hondo River, affecting water quality for downstream communities.

I am currently living in Valdez along the Rio Hondo and I am concerned about how the expansion will directly impact my health and my community.