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First name: Angela

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Carson National Forest,

I object to all improvements at the Taos Ski Valley that are not related to resolving safety issues.

The proposal of a new village to be built near the Bavarian Lodge seems impossible to keep within the Taos Ski Valley's actual water rights of 21.45 acre-feet, which is limited to 0.11 acre-feet of daily use between April 11th and October 25th. The Environmental Impact Statement should analyze an alternative that places Taos Ski Valley's potential water usage in the context of their allocated water rights.

The Taos Ski Valley has proven that they cannot handle their solid waste in a safe manner, sending water with high levels of fecal matter down the Rio Hondo for parciantes to water their fields and crops with using the historic, brilliant, and threatened acequia system. The Taos Ski Valley Solid Waste Plant has been failing for years and needs some serious upgrades.

The Environmental Assessment fails to disclose impacts to public lands access. The Environmental Impact Statement must consider how the gondola will affect public access to the Williams Lake trailhead and must include consideration of winter access. Given the likely negative impacts to Wilderness access the Forest Service should deny the base-to-base gondola.

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 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.

And most importantly to me, the Environmental Impact Statement must adhere to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requiring federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. There was a clay pottery vessel found not too far from where this project is being proposed. A pot that the Taos Ski Valley proudly displayed for years. I would also recommend consulting with the Taos Pueblo regarding this proposal and highly weigh their concerns.

Thank you.