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Comments: I'm writing to support Alternative 2 of the Ski Santa Fe Snowmaking Modernization Project.

I've skied at Ski Santa Fe for years, and like a lot of people up here I've watched the winters get harder to predict. Some seasons the snow shows up late, some years it barely holds. That's really what this project is about for me - giving the mountain a way to open on time and stay open when the weather doesn't cooperate. Better, more efficient snowmaking on the terrain off Chair 7, keeping runs connected during thin-snow stretches, and the safety fixes on Sunrise all seem like sensible, practical improvements rather than some big expansion.

What reassured me most was actually reading the Environmental Assessment. I went in a little skeptical about the water question, and I came away satisfied that the project stays within existing water rights and doesn't bump up annual use - with most of the diverted water ending up back in the watershed as snowmelt anyway. The 4.6-million-gallon storage tank struck me as a smart addition too, especially the possibility of it helping with wildfire suppression, which feels increasingly relevant around here.

I was also glad to see the EA found no effects on federally listed species, no lasting water-quality impacts, and no harm to cultural or historic resources, plus real measures for erosion control, weed management, and restoring disturbed ground with native plants afterward. To me it reads like the Forest Service and Ski Santa Fe genuinely thought about the tradeoffs.

Ski Santa Fe matters to this part of the state - for locals, for the businesses that depend on winter visitors, and for the jobs it supports. Alternative 2 looks like a reasonable way to help it adapt while protecting the land it sits on. I hope you'll approve it.