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Organization:

Title:

Comments: "More Kids in the Winter Woods" comments

Hello,

I'm writing to initiate the submission of comments for the forest revision plan from the "More Kids in the Winter Woods" project. I have been facilitating this Forest Service-funded project since last August. We are building a community collaboration to help the Forest Service increase winter recreational and educational activities in the Sandias and provide input on public priorities. We will hold the last of many community meetings on April 9. After that, I will prepare a final report of public priorities and suggestions. I will send those comments to you for inclusion in the forest revision plan.

"More Kids" is looking at four areas of winter operation in the Sandias:

- \*access - via Highway 536/Crest RD and in parking areas

- \*trails for winter activities

- \*environmental education - broadly defined, including education about outdoor winter safety and recreation such as "learn-to-ski"

- \*Capulin Snow Play Area - should it be open and, if so, how should it be operated

We conducted many pilot activities this past winter to inform our comments. Those included opening Capulin with volunteers assisting FS staff, two public "Celebrate Winter" events at the Sandia Crest House, school groups receiving winter environmental ed at the Sandia Peak Ski Area and the top of the Tram, and the development of an "experimental" groomed ski-only cross-country ski trail.

This collaboration has included over 100 participants from many local organizations ranging from Sandia Mountain Natural History Center to REI to Sandia Peak Ski Patrol to the East Mountain Chamber of Commerce. Please let me know if you have any questions. I will send you the finalized comments as soon as possible.

Thank you!

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