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Comments:

I have to say that as a biologist I'm shocked by this proposal. It says there will be a "minimum amount of new disturbance" associated with the coaster, so no EIS or EA has to be prepared. It is untrue that there will be a "minimum" of new disturbance. Currently, the only disturbances on a large scale are in the winter during snow season. In the warm months, only occasional bikes or hikers wander slowly through the area. In the summer, bobcats, mule deer, bear, and mountain lions are raising offspring and looking for food. This "coaster" promises to cut a large part of the terrain in half, first as an obstacle and second as a noise and visual disturbance. People will be screaming and yelling, and bobsleds will be rushing downhill. At the very least, an EIS must be done. The project statement also declares that the coaster is "needed" because of people who are unfit or unskilled, yet who want to appreciate nature in a "passive" manner. This is not a "need." I would suggest that instead of turning the ski area into a warm-month carnival, the Forest Service would serve these "passive" people (and as a disabled vet, I am one) better by rehabilitating and even building new picnic and camping areas. The last time I was there they were in a sad state indeed.