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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Please do not approved the proposed Mountain Coaster at the Sandia Park Ski area.

The coaster will be within view and earshot of beloved trails such as the Crest and 10K, and for those of us who value the quiet sounds of nature, wildlife viewing, and aesthetics of the natural landscape, this is not acceptable.

The project is proposed to build on and around the current ski footprint. Can the landscape handle an increase in traffic in a such small area? In year one, the Mountain Coaster is estimated to have 75,000 to 100,000 riders. The Sandia Peak Tramway transports 250,000 visitors annually up and down the western slope of the Sandia Mountains and already operates at maximum capacity during most weekends and holidays. These questions must be addressed.

The Mountain Coaster would be built near the Sandia Wilderness Area and operate year-round, hugely impacting wildlife. The following threatened or endangered species may be present: New Mexico meadow jumping mouse; Mexican spotted owl; Southwestern willow flycatcher; and Yellow-billed cuckoo. If the USFS issues a categorical exclusion there will be NO ANALYSIS on wildlife impact. You must complete an Environmental Assessment.

Thank you.