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Comments:

I just learned about the mountain coaster. After reading through all the publicly available documents and news articles online, I was still uncertain about which organization is funding the project. \$2 million is a lot to invest in a single, purely recreational, new project in an area with so much recreation presently available. Having skied at the Sandia Ski Area, I know that the lifts could use some upgrades. However, without the knowledge of which entity is funding the project, it is hard to determine alternative uses of the \$2 million. If the USFS is providing the funding, then I personally know many employees within the USFS that would protest to that information. If the Sandia Ski Area is looking for more revenue, I'm still not convinced that this is the best avenue to pursue. Focusing on on the recreational activities currently available and improving those establishments would be much more proactive for an enduring recreational future for the back side of the Sandias.

This coaster will need maintenance eventually, and there surely will be injuries resulting from this activity, especially if the operation is non-mechanical/fueled by the laws of gravity. I wonder how the construction and maintenance schedule will impact mountain biking, ski/snowboarding, general access, and the ecosystem, especially since this project is being excluded from an EA or an EIS. Additionally, the Sandia Mountains are a refuge, like many other public lands in this country, and in New Mexico in particular. Skiing and snowboarding are examples of extremely intense and hazardous recreational activities that stimulate curiosity, teach lessons, engage people with their outdoor areas in a winter setting, and generally produce low levels of noise. An amusement park in the national forest does not align with my, and many others, idea of a day in the woods. There are plenty of alternative locations with aesthetics that match a rollercoaster much more seamlessly than US Forest Service land. Additionally, the intersection of ADA adaptability with public lands increases every year, and most recreational sports (mountain biking and skiing included) have adaptive counterparts.

New Mexico is not Colorado. Or Utah. Or California. Or Arizona. Or Texas. New Mexico is New Mexico. We are a low-density recreation state and many of us that recreate extensively (read: nearly all of us) enjoy the serenity that comes from isolation in the forests and deserts. A mountain coaster is not going to fix the gap in revenue that the Sandia Ski Area is hoping to find. Unless they charge exorbitant fees, in which case, the coaster will then be alienating lower-income families and individuals in a lower-income state. We already have the tram, which is a successful project that attracts tourists, flaunts the majestic characteristics of the Sandias, and is separate from recreation occurring on the ground. Also, please consider the Pueblo of Sandia and the comments they have submitted. These days, we have boundaries and lines and *broken* treaties and leases, but this was their land.

I don't support this project.