



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tahoe National Forest  
Supervisor's Office

631 Coyote Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
530-478-6100

FAX: 530-478-6109

---

**File Code:** 1950/2710

**Date:** April 19, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

The United States Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, is initiating preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider and disclose the anticipated environmental effects of the Squaw Valley to Alpine Meadows Base-to-Base Gondola Project. In September 2015, the Tahoe National Forest accepted an application from Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC which proposes to install, operate, and maintain an aerial ropeway system connecting the Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows ski areas. This proposal also included an alteration to current avalanche mitigation techniques including the installation of Gazex® exploders. Implementation of the proposal would require an amendment to an existing Special Use Permit issued for the operation and maintenance of Alpine Meadows Ski Area. The proposal is consistent with Alpine Meadows' current Master Development Plan and passed the screening criteria for consideration to use National Forest System lands and amend the existing permit consistent with Forest Service land use regulations. Please see the project website, <http://squawalpinegondola-eis.com/>, for a full description of the project, including maps.

The Tahoe National Forest is requesting your comments on any component of this project. The purpose of this scoping period is to provide an opportunity for interested parties to provide early and meaningful participation on this project and to learn more about the project. Your questions and comments regarding this proposal are an integral part of the environmental analysis process. Respondents should include: (1) name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) reference the "Squaw Valley to Alpine Meadows Base-to-Base Gondola Project" and (3) specific facts, concerns or issues, and supporting reasons why they should be considered.

Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, electronically, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, c/o NEPA Contractor, P.O. Box 2729, Frisco, CO 80443. Electronic comments including attachments can be submitted on the project website, <http://squawalpinegondola-eis.com/comment/>, or via email to [scoping\\_comment@squawalpinegondola-eis.com](mailto:scoping_comment@squawalpinegondola-eis.com).

Two public meetings will be held on May 9, 2016 to gather comments on the scope of the project. Both meetings will be held at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Monument Peak Room, 400 Squaw Creek Road, Olympic Valley, California. The first meeting will be held from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and the second will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. These meetings will be held jointly with Placer County regarding their analysis of the project under the California Environmental Quality Act. Representatives from the Tahoe National Forest, Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, LLC, and Placer County will be present to answer questions and provide additional information on this project.



This project will be subject to 36 CFR 218 *Project-level Predecisional Administrative Review Process* (Parts A and B). Individuals and entities who have submitted timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity during public comment periods, including this 30-day public scoping period, may file an objection (36 CFR 218.5(a)). Written comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection (36 CFR 218.25(b)(2)). For purposes of meeting the 36 CFR 218.5 eligibility requirements, the public scoping period will end 30 days from the date the Notice of Intent is published in the Federal Register (anticipated on or about April 29, 2016).

To obtain additional information about the Squaw Valley to Alpine Meadows Base-to-Base Gondola Project, please contact Joe Flannery at telephone (530) 587-3558, extension 243, or email [jflannery@fs.fed.us](mailto:jflannery@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eli Ilano', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ELI ILANO  
Forest Supervisor