

Climbing high: TSV proposes rock face development

Staff report

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Taos Ski Valley is asking the Carson National Forest for an amendment to its permit, so it can build a new type of recreational development: via ferrata (Italian for “iron path”).

A via ferrata is essentially a combination of a steel cable attached to a rock face, along with iron rungs, pegs, ladders, bridges and aerial walkways, which make terrain usually reserved for mountain climbers more accessible.

The proposed development was announced by the Carson Monday (Dec. 17). The U.S. Forest Service is seeking public comment on the proposal. Comments are most useful by Jan. 7, 2019 and can be mailed, hand-delivered to the Questa Ranger station or emailed. See this story at taosnews.com for more details.

According to the scoping letter released by the Forest Service, the proposed development would occur on three different rock formations in the Kachina Bowl area of TSV above Lift 4.

The Main Street Cliff development would have three distinct via ferrata climbs up to a picnic area and bench. It would consist of 150 to 200 feet of vertical climbs, and have access to a 125-foot aerial walkway. The other two “pods” would consist of vertical climbing between 75 and 165 feet of varying skill levels. Participants would be outfitted with climbing equipment (helmets, harnesses, ropes) and would need a guide.

The development would also include the construction of a .7 mile trail.