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First name: Michael
Last name: Davis
Organization: Utah Snowmobile Association
Title: Public Lands
Comments: To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this comment in support of alternative 4 or 1 as both of these alternatives support the current snowmobile trail structure. Alternative 2 does not meet these criteria. Alternative 2 calls for the closure of over 5 miles of (state-groomed) trail access to High Mountain and Cedar Breaks NM. These closures would severely impact access for general snowmobiling and guided tours out of Brian Head city. Additionally, the proposed re-route through town for access to Cedar Breaks is unsafe and unacceptable as riders would need to cross over nine different access roads and busy highways. It is our understanding that this route was never intended for access to Cedar Breaks and was only used to access the town, if needed, via snowmobile. There needs to be a viable alternative to this issue.

I attended a meeting with other entities in the region of concern (Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes pod) this October. After a quick hike and getting a good visual perspective of the area we feel that if the FS moves fwd with Alt 2, a (winter only) re-route can be established. This route would be along the Southern and Southwest edge of the proposed resort boundary, re-connecting to the existing road above the sugarloaf lift. Or, at the very least, share the boundary with the proposed ski run. See attached pic… Of note, it appeared that there was already a trail being established at one point due to a number of trees (deadfall) that had been cut out establishing easy access for hikers in the area.

Note: These were not slash piles. See pic.

Therefore, we are in support of either alt 1 or 4 which wouldn't change the current trail structure. Or, a hybrid of alt 2 and 4 allowing for a viable re-route of the current snowmobile trail through the Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes pod. We encourage the Forest Service to continue to work with BH Resort, BH city, and snowmobile representatives to come up with a safe solution that is satisfactory for all parties.

Moving ahead we intend to ride (snowmobile) this area in the winter in order to get more information and help present a better solution for a re-route vs going through town. We'd also encourage the FS, the resort, and BH city officials to join us in doing so.

Thank you for your time.

Michael Davis
Utah Snowmobile Association
(801) 372-5923