

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2025 10:07:38 PM

First name: Marie

Last name: Nella

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident, and someone who has worked in the town of Brian Head since 1998, I am adamantly opposed to the proposed expansion of Brian Head Resort. I am an avid Nordic skier, snowboarder, and general outdoor enthusiast, and I think it would be wonderful to have new terrain accessible for Winter recreation. However, not at the expense of what it will do to the environment, animal habitats, and Brian Head Town in general.

Below is a short list of just a few reasons why I hope the expansion is curtailed, in no particular order because I believe they are all important.

1. Lack of natural resources: Snow pack has diminished steadily over the last decade. Of course some years are better than others, but the overall trajectory is less snow/water.

The Resort has proposed several new snowmaking areas in their expansion. If additional snowmaking is allowed it would potentially drain the already strained water resources in Brian Head, and Parowan valley.

2. Gentrification of Brian Head. Cost of living is already high, with wages that do not meet the standard of living. There is not any housing for Resort employees on the mountain; which has led to increased long-term rental prices, and is forcing long time residents to move out of Brian Head. As well, an expansion of this size will ultimately change the intimate small town feel Brian Head is known for, the reason so many of us who have lived here for so long have stayed.

3. Traffic on Highway 143 is dangerous during Winter months. Although there are two designated 'chain-up' areas, drivers routinely neglect using them, causing road hazards for uphill and downhill traffic. Those of us who live in town are always surprised Highway Patrol and Brian Head Marshalls are not proactive in stopping vehicles who do not have chains or all-weather tires. These accidents often lead to road closures in the canyon. The highway does not seem big enough to accommodate what traffic there already is, let alone an influx.

4. Running and maintaining ski lifts uses a lot fossil fuel energy, and it does not seem there are any proposed plans for renewable energy or sustainability efforts to offset the excessive greenhouse gasses and carbon dioxide caused by the expansion.

5. With the expansion undoubtedly there will be disturbances to wildlife habitats, which may cause injury, and displacement to animals. Clearcutting and deforestation will harm birds, and mammal species that live on the mountain; specifically Rocky Mountain Elk, Pika, and Mule Deer.

6. The prospective lift to the Peak would impact the endangered Great Basin Snail, also known as the Brian Head Mountainsnail. Information can be found on the federal register, or here:
<https://fieldguide.wildlife.utah.gov/?species=oreohelix%20parawanensis>

7. Brian Head is working toward making the town part of the designated International Dark Sky Association. If the Resort expands their terrain, that would certainly cause light pollution, interfering with the IDA.

Although there are many more reasons I could give for rejecting the Resorts proposed plan I will leave it here.

I hope those who are tasked with making the decision to allow this expansion to move forward consider much more than the monetary value of a bigger resort. Growth is inevitable, but National parks and forests are the last strongholds of wild nature. These lands protect what clean air, water, and wildlife we have left in a world being

paved and sold off. And once it is gone, it is gone. I hope thoughtful, smart, and reasonable choices will be made on behalf of those who will be most affected by allowing Brian Head Resort to expand.