

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2026 9:09:25 PM

First name: Cindy

Last name: Dady

Organization: Sunlight Inc

Title:

Comments: Sunlight Inc., DBA Sunlight Snowmobile Tours, supports the project but requests two considerations.

We ask for two amendments to the current proposal:

1. Additional improvements made to the cut-around trail at the start of the SP.

2.A maintained snowmobile lane for use by us and the public on the side of Forest Service Road 300

Without these, Sunlight Snowmobile Tours will be adversely impacted and possibly lose our ability to ensure our guests' safety and our ability to operate.

The background of our request -

Sunlight Snowmobile Tours has been operating for decades in the Four Mile area of the White River National Forest, providing access to pristine wilderness, with minimal environmental impact, for a public that is increasingly distanced from the natural world. Being one of the most affordable snowmobile tours in Colorado, we provide a unique opportunity to safely explore an incredible piece of public land. Our service has allowed people from all over the country, and indeed all over the world, to experience the transformative power of the wild with their families, friends, and loved ones.

To access the White River National Forest, we rely on two trails, the SP, and Forest Service Road 300.

The SP, or Sunlight to Powderhorn trail, is a much beloved, much-traveled winter-only route that runs approximately 120 miles through multiple national forests. Sections are groomed occasionally, when conditions allow. In some seasons, for example, this current winter of 2025/2026, the first section of the trail has not been groomed due to low snow coverage. In the Environmental Assessment for the project, submitted June 2019, the following projects are brought forward on page 14:

- "Construct a parking area for winter non-motorized users of NFS Road 300. The parking area would accommodate approximately 10 vehicles."

- "Create a snowmobile route approximately 0.36 miles long that would reduce conflicts between non-motorized and motorized winter users along Road 300 at the cattle guard. This route would separate use for a short period, allowing users to disperse before coming back together on the road."

These projects were never completed. The snowmobile route described is effectively the first section of the SP trail. This section of the trail is referred to as "the cut-around," and has proven difficult to navigate since its creation during the last logging operation to impact the Four Mile area. The trail itself is steep, rocky, off-camber, surrounded and carpeted with sticks, logs, and slash left over from the County Line Project. Our guests at Sunlight Snowmobile Tours have a very difficult time getting through this trail, many of them tipping over, some guests landing on rocks or leftover slash and injuring themselves. Some guests have quit from there, too daunted by the hill they must climb or from seeing somebody else crash in the attempt. Without Forest Service Road 300, this "cut-around" trail is the only option for snowmobiling access to the Four Mile Area.

We request that improvements be made to the alternative route to allow for more and easier public snowmobiling access to the White River National Forest.

The second route into the national forest used by both our company and recreational snowmobilers, as well as many other winter sports enthusiasts such as snowshoers, cross-country skiers, backcountry skiers, hikers, and many others, is Forest Service Road 300. Being a graded road, this is by far the easiest way to access and make egress from the National Forest. This is our go-to route for evacuation in the event of injury, illness, altered mental status, or any other emergency in the backcountry. This is often the only realistic route for ski patrol and other emergency services to access the backcountry and perform extractions. If 300 road were not available to us on a bad snow year like this one, we would not be able to operate, as in many places the low snow coverage makes the SP and other trails impassable.

We request the ability to use the approximately 7 miles between the William's Peak Parking lot and the

intersection of 300 road and the Pipeline trail, by the first Black Hills Energy pumphouse. Ideally, we would have a lane on the side of 300 road to be groomed and maintained as a snowmobile trail by our company and the mount Sopris Rec Riders.

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