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First name: Kelly

Last name: Oldroyd

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As owner/operator of a business that deals primarily in snowmobile use on public land, I feel like I represent most all snowmobilers and share the opinions of many. The expansion of BH Resort will undoubtedly impact snowmobile access and public land use permanently, in addition to endangering local business and existing access. Growth is going to happen, but it needs to be closely monitored in order to include and protect all groups and interests, not just the ones who have the most money.

Anyone who is anti-growth will choose Alt. 1 - no changes. Simple and easy, but not really an option.

Alternative 2 is the most destructive (bull in a china shop) and doesn't really account for consideration of other groups and interests. "Permanently eliminates 5 miles of groomed snowmobile route" is an understatement. This option would permanently eliminate the entire Section 8 snowmobile complex simply by making it unaccessible. There would be no way to get into this area via snowmobile and it would simply cease to exist for winter recreation. The plan calls for rerouting through BH Town, which IS NOT a viable option. The town snowmobile trail is limited access (snow conditions permitting) and it is typically not safe. There are currently 9 road crossings on the town trail, which are sometimes hazardous and sometimes not even possible.

It is imperative to keep and maintain an access route from the Dry Lakes Pod to the South side of Brian Head Town.

Alternative 3 poses similar threats in access to Dry Lakes, Twisted Forest and High Mountain for snowmobiles. If there is not a way to get there, it simply will not be used for snowmobile recreation.

Another thing to consider is vehicle and maintenance access to the new lifts, as well as access to new development sites. There will eventually be a need to pave and plow a road into the Dry Lakes area, which will make snowmobile access impossible unless there is another route already in place.

Consideration should be given to permitted users of Dixie National Forest who have put in years of time and money to be allowed to legally use our public lands. These groups deserve better than to be tossed aside and told, "Sorry, you can't be here anymore."