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Comments: I am writing to submit my formal public comment regarding the proposed Brian Head Resort Expansion Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As an outdoor recreationist who values multi-use access to our public lands, I am deeply concerned about the proposed elimination and rerouting of the primary snowmobile trail through the Navajo Ridge area.

While I understand the resort's desire to expand its skiable acreage, the current proposal to reroute approximately 5 miles of the existing backcountry snowmobile trail directly through the Town of Brian Head is unsustainable and creates significant safety and operational challenges.

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to protect existing motorized winter recreation by considering the following points:

1. Town Routing is Unreliable and Unsafe: Funneling up to 150 snowmobiles per day through town streets creates a severe bottleneck. This route is entirely dependent on town snow-coverage conditions, which are highly variable and often insufficient compared to the higher backcountry elevations. Mixing heavy snowmobile traffic with town vehicle traffic and pedestrians poses an unnecessary safety risk.
2. Loss of High-Quality Backcountry Access: The Navajo Ridge area provides critical, contiguous access to the broader regional trail system. Severing this connection to build the Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes ski pod disproportionately impacts motorized winter recreationists who have historically used and maintained these routes.
3. Support for Alternative 4 or Outer Boundary Rerouting: I formally request that the Forest Service adopt Alternative 4, which removes the Dry Lakes ski pod from the expansion plan, thereby preserving the integrity of the existing snowmobile trail. If expansion must proceed, the Forest Service should mandate a viable, high-elevation alternative route that skirts entirely around the outside of the project area, rather than dropping riders into the town grid.