

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/22/2026 4:00:00 AM

First name: Pat

Last name: Pfieffer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the massive Brian Head Resort expansion project for many reasons. The environmental impacts would affect several areas of concern including loss of wildlife habitat, loss of precious surface and groundwater in an area of severe drought, and loss of character of the land which will morph into more thrill seeking attractions that steals open space and coveted wilderness. The potential impact on wildlife could be life threatening for the Northern Goshawks which are a regional sensitive bird that's offered special protection. There could also be negative impacts to calving and fawning habitats for Rocky Mountain Elk and mule deer. Habitat for the American Pika could be destroyed where ground is being disturbed. The development would convert public land use towards more skiing that requires a major increase in infrastructure while decreasing the areas set aside for the established winter activities such as snow shoeing and hiking. My husband and I travel to the Brian Head area each year for the opportunity to experience snow shoeing in a quiet winter setting that allows us the peace needed to enjoy wildlife and open space. This open space and expansive wilderness is what attracts so many vacationers to Utah. As with all major expansion projects there comes increased visitors, traffic, roads and other supportive infrastructure which changes the land's character from wilderness to yet more thrill seeking zones. Don't we have enough of that already? Utah is quickly becoming like so many other states with the ever-increasing thrill seeking attractions while decreasing our ability to enjoy nature with a modicum of peace. To quote Terry Tempest Williams, Castle Valley, Utah: "The eyes of the future are looking back at us and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time. They are kneeling with hands clasped that we might act with restraint, that we might leave room for the life that is destined to come. To protect what is wild is to protect what is gentle. Perhaps the wildness we fear is the pause between our own heartbeats, the silent space that says we only live by grace. Wilderness lives by this same grace. Wild mercy is in our lands "