

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

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: It's winter in Brian Head, and someone asks, "What else is there to do other than skiing?"

One of my favorite answers is, "Have you been on a snowmobile tour?"

Snowmobiling offers a completely different way to experience Brian Head. It is family-friendly, scenic, and gives visitors an opportunity to get to know the area beyond the ski slopes. They can experience untouched snow, travel through the trees during a snowfall, learn about the area, and reach some of the incredible views and landscapes that surround our community.

As someone who owns a snowmobile, I personally love and regularly use these trails. Snowmobiling is such a great bonding activity for families and groups of friends. Being together outdoors encourages conversation, teamwork, and an appreciation for the landscape that you simply cannot experience the same way from town.

I also work during the winter helping guide snowmobile tours. One of the most rewarding parts of that job is watching people experience our snow and the beautiful geography surrounding Brian Head-sometimes for the very first time. These experiences become part of what visitors remember about their trip here.

That is why maintaining dedicated and accessible snowmobile trails is so important. Established routes allow us to safely and efficiently guide riders of different ages and skill levels into these areas. Without adequate trail access, it becomes much more difficult for residents, visitors, and guided tours to experience the surrounding public lands by snowmobile.

As the Forest Service considers the Brian Head Resort expansion, I ask that you consider not only skiing, but the other recreational activities that make this area special and provide access to our public lands. Snowmobiling is an important part of winter recreation in Brian Head, just as hiking, biking, OHV riding, and exploring the surrounding landscape are important during the warmer months.

This is especially apparent right now in September, when the leaves are changing and people are out exploring and enjoying the beauty of this area. These public lands provide meaningful recreational experiences throughout the entire year.

For these reasons, I support Alternative 4. I do not support Alternatives 2 or 3 if their implementation would eliminate or exclude the existing snowmobile trails and public motorized access that our residents, visitors, guides, and local businesses rely upon.

I understand the desire for Brian Head Resort to grow, and I am not opposed to responsible expansion. However, expansion should not come at the expense of other established recreational uses of our public lands. Skiing is only one way people experience Brian Head and the Dixie National Forest.

I ask the Forest Service to select an alternative that preserves meaningful, dedicated snowmobile access while allowing the resort to move forward. Of the alternatives presented, I support Alternative 4 because maintaining this access matters to me as a local rider, a winter snowmobile guide, and someone who regularly sees how much these experiences mean to visitors.

Please protect the opportunity for future residents, families, visitors, and snowmobilers of all skill levels to continue experiencing these public lands in this way.