



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

REDGE B. JOHNSON
Director

May 23, 2023

Submitted via electronically: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2012354/510>

Jason West
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
St. George Field Office
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, UT 84790

Re: **Dixie Electric Scrub Peak Project**
RDCC Project No. 85377

Dear Mr. West:

The State of Utah (State), through the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, appreciates the opportunity to review the Dixie Power Overhead Distribution Line to the Scrub Peak Radio Tower Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The State supports Alternative B, the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action responds to Dixie Power's application requesting a right-of-way (ROW) connecting from an existing PacifiCorp Line for the electrical distribution line to power the Scrub Peak Radio Tower. The ROW would be approximately 4.4 miles in length crossing Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) and BLM administered lands. The ROW would encompass approximately 19.35 acres of public lands and 7.32 acres of SITLA lands. If authorized the grant would only be for the portion of alignment on BLM lands. In collaboration with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), the State offers the following comments for your consideration.

The proposed project is within the crucial mule deer winter range and yearlong habitat for desert bighorn sheep. To minimize impacts to bighorn sheep lambing, DWR suggests that construction be performed outside of critical life stage time periods. DWR recommends construction and maintenance activities should be minimized to the extent possible from February 15 to April 15.

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If you have questions, please contact the DWR's Impact Analysis Biologist in our Cedar City office, Jessica Kinross, at jessicavan@utah.gov or 435-691-2372.

The State appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this project. Please call if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RBJ', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Redge B. Johnson
Director