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U.S. Forest Service
Dixie National Forest
1789 N. Wedgewood Ln.
Cedar City, UT 84721

RE: Comments on the Proposed Project: Brian Head Resort Ski Resort Expansion

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to provide formal comments in strong support of the Brian Head Resort Ski Resort Expansion project as detailed in the Proposed Action of July 2025. I have reviewed the comprehensive project description and believe this is a necessary and well-conceived action that aligns with the public interest and the strategic goals of the Dixie National Forest. Additionally Brain Head Resort has been collaborating closely with the DNF from MDP creation and acceptance to NOI publication. Brian Head Resort strongly supports and advocates for the project's Objectives which are listed in detail in the "Brian Head Resort Environmental Impact Statement Proposed Action Details" document. See USFS hosted document: **BrianHeadResortExpansion_DetailedProposedAction_07102025.pdf**

My specific written comments regarding this proposed activity are as follows:

1. I support the proposed methods for trail, snowmaking and all other areas of construction, which are designed to be minimally impactful and environmentally aware. The plan correctly prioritizes creating smooth trail surfaces. The use of blasting and other techniques for rock removal/reduction and other forms of trail construction are appropriate for the conditions that will be encountered. The use of Project Design Criteria (PDC) to mitigate impacts demonstrates a responsible approach to construction.
2. I support the multi-faceted approach to Vegetation Management, which serves the dual purpose of recreational development and forest health improvement. The plan for vegetation removal for ski trails and facilities is necessary for safe resort operations. The focus on hazard tree abatement and thinning treatments in overstocked areas will improve public safety and promote a healthier, more resilient forest ecosystem.
3. I support the detailed and low-impact construction Access plan. The strategy to utilize existing and proposed roads and ski trails for equipment access, and when possible to site skid

trails within existing disturbance corridors, is an effective way to minimize resource impact(s). The planned use of helicopter installation for chairlift towers in areas with difficult access further shows a commitment to resource protection during the construction phase.

4. I support the project's Snowmaking plan. The commitment from both Brian Head Town and Aspen Meadows to supply the water meets the needs of the proposal. The data provided, confirms that there is sufficient capacity to support this expansion.

5. I support the plan for the development and management of new Mountain Roads. Designating some new and improved roads as administrative routes that are gated and closed to the public year-round is a measure for protecting forest resources from unmanaged vehicle access. By adhering to Forest Service guidelines for maintenance, the resort will ensure these routes are managed responsibly.

6. The project directly addresses the growing public demand for outdoor recreation on National Forest System lands. The proposal is consistent with the 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dixie National Forest, which identifies a need to provide increased downhill skiing capacity. The project will expand resort capacity to accommodate the expected population growth and rising demand for recreation in Utah and the Southwest.

7. The proposal is necessary to improve the guest experience and alleviate existing infrastructure deficits. The Proposed Action document clearly identifies that Brian Head Resort's current lifts, ski trails, skiable terrain, guest services, food service, and parking capacities are at times insufficient for its current and future guests needs. The plan to increase the lift and trail network, add ski terrain, construct new on-mountain dining facilities and develop new base areas is a necessary measure to decongest existing facilities and provide a higher quality and safer experience for visitors to the National Forest.

8. The expansion is essential for creating a more balanced and diverse terrain offering for all ability levels. The document notes a significant imbalance in the current terrain distribution, with a deficit in beginner, intermediate, advanced, and expert terrain compared to the established skier and rider market. The Proposed Action to develop new ski trails and install new lifts will directly remedy this shortfall, creating a better learning progression and providing the diverse experience that modern recreationists expect.

In conclusion, the Brian Head Resort Ski Resort Expansion is a vital project that fulfills the Forest Service's purpose and need to enhance recreational opportunities on the Dixie National Forest. It thoughtfully addresses current capacity shortfalls, improves the guest experience, and incorporates responsible forest management. I fully support this Proposed Action and urge the Forest Service to approve it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tom Pettigrew



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