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To:
Matthew Loscalzo, Project Manager
Dixie National Forest
Cedar City Ranger District
820 N. Main Street
Cedar City, UT 84721
Email: matthew.loscalzo@usda.gov

RE: Scoping Comment – Brian Head Resort Expansion EIS
Dear Mr. Loscalzo,

I am writing as a Utah native and lifelong outdoorsman to provide specific comments on the proposed Brian Head Ski Resort Expansion Environmental Impact Statement. I grew up exploring the forests, canyons, and peaks of southern Utah, and have family in St. George. I've hiked, camped, skied, and biked throughout the region, including Brian Head itself.

While I understand the economic value Brian Head brings to Iron County, I have serious concerns about the scale of the proposed expansion and its long-term, irreversible impacts on public lands. Specifically, I urge the Forest Service to thoroughly analyze and address the following areas:

1. Water Supply and Snowmaking Demands

The proposal outlines significant increases in ski terrain and snowmaking infrastructure, yet southern Utah is one of the most water-constrained regions in the country. Expanded snowmaking will place new stress on local water systems—already under pressure from municipal growth, agriculture, and hydrologic uncertainty.

It would be a disservice to the public interest for the EIS not to include:

- A comprehensive hydrologic study over a 30-year planning horizon, including modeling of impacts on wells, surface water, and springs used by wildlife.

2. Wildlife Habitat and Ecosystem Fragmentation

The proposed affected area includes high-value subalpine forest and undeveloped habitat that supports sensitive and migratory species. The construction of lifts and roads would cause irreversible fragmentation.

It would be negligent to the public interest for the EIS not to include:

- A comprehensive survey for threatened or sensitive species, including assessing wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.

Expanding lift-served recreation into currently undeveloped Forest Service land creates fragmentation that cannot be undone.

Final Thought

This proposal represents a permanent conversion of public lands to all of us, not just to developers or seasonal visitors. Once built, the lifts and roads cannot be returned to a wild state.

These sorts of proposals have a way of being approved piecemeal, to meet the supposedly measured needs of the moment, but over time never fail to prove insufficient for the insatiable appetite of commercial development.

I urge the Forest Service to take The Long View in its decision.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,
Dustin Brown

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