



August 26, 2026

Dixie National Forest Cedar City Ranger District
Attn: Brian Head Resort Expansion Project #292353

RE: Brian Head Town Support for Alternative 2 – Brian Head Resort Expansion Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Brian Head Town, I am writing to express our support for Alternative 2 of the proposed Brian Head Resort Expansion Project that is currently under review by the Dixie National Forest. As Town Manager, I have had the opportunity to review the proposal and engage with various stakeholders throughout this process, and I want to formally convey our municipal government's perspective on why this alternative best serves both the resort and the community we represent.

Brian Head Town's economy, tax base, and viability are directly tied to the health of Brian Head Resort. As the community's primary economic driver, the resort's expansion under Alternative 2 would translate into meaningful benefits for the town itself: a stronger year-round tax base that supports our small permanent population through the off-season, continued investment that helps the town retain the seasonal and year-round workforce and base population our local businesses depend on, and increased sales and lodging tax revenue to fund municipal services and infrastructure. Alternative 2 aligns with Brian Head Town's current strategic plan and long-term goals to better support the economy. The resort's growth is our growth.

The project would support local jobs and tourism spending across Iron County and Southern Utah more broadly. As the region's population and visitation continue to grow, a stronger, more resilient resort helps anchor tourism-based employment throughout the corridor, benefiting the businesses, contractors, and service providers our residents rely on.

Alternative 2's hazard-tree removal and post-fire vegetation treatment also carry a direct municipal benefit that goes beyond the resort's operational boundary. The 2017 Brian Head Fire not only scarred the mountainside but also scarred the town as a whole. Standing dead and hazard trees in the surrounding forest remain an ongoing wildfire and public safety risk to our residents, visitors, and infrastructure. Active forest health treatment under this alternative would reduce fuel loads near town, protect our watershed, and lower the risk of future catastrophic fire affecting the community directly. Regardless of the expansion, this is an outcome that is essential to the Town.

Additional terrain and improved lift-served infrastructure would expand winter recreation capacity to meet growing regional demand. For the Town, this means a more competitive, sustainable resort product. This could result in additional support of overnight stays, local spending, and the continued investment that keeps Brian Head a viable, desirable place to live and work, not just visit.

For all of these reasons, Brian Head Town requests that the Dixie National Forest select Alternative 2 in the final decision for this project. We appreciate the collaborative approach the Forest Service has taken throughout this process and look forward to continuing to work together as the project moves forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bret Howser', with a stylized, flowing script.

Bret Howser
Town Manager
Brian Head Town