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Title:
Comments: Please see attached scoping comments.
August 11, 2025Kevin Wright, Forest SupervisorC/O Matt LoscalzoDixie National Forest820 N MainCedar City, UT 8472Subject: Scoping Comments on Proposed Expansion Project - Brian Head Resort, Dixie National ForestDear Mr. Wright,Under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), the United States Forest Service (USFS) isrequired to meaningfully involve local governments in federal land-use planning processes. Thesecoordination requirements are further supported by the National Environmental Policy Act (NE??),which mandates that federal land-use planning be consistent with state and local plans.Iron County maintains that the management of public lands must support multiple uses, prevent thewaste of natural resources, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. We recognize thatthe proposed project has the potential to increase visitation and enhance opportunities for both residentsand visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and recreation offerings of our National Forests during bothwinter and summer seasons.Project OverviewThe proposed project on Dixie National Forest (DNF) land includes the following components:Expansion of Brian Head Resort's special use permit area by 1,651 acresConstruction of up to 382 acres of new ski trails and 14 new liftsDevelopment of four new on-mountain restaurants and eight new ski patrol facilitiesInstallation of 19 miles of new snowmaking lines (covering 186 acres)Construction of up to 10 miles of new administrative roads and improvements to 5 miles ofexisting roadsInstallation of up to 13 miles of new utility infrastructureRe-routing of an existing snowmobile routeVegetation management activities across 520 acresIron County acknowledges the recent Supreme Court ruling in Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v.Eagle County, and respectfully requests that the Dixie National Forest (DNF) focus its environmentalanalysis on the direct effects of the proposed project, in alignment with the Court's guidance regardingindirect effects.Key Scoping Issues for ConsiderationIron County encourages the Forest Service to consider the following issues during the environmentalreview process:1. Multi-Use Access and Impacts on Current Land Users[bull] Evaluate how the proposed expansion affects access to public lands.o Analyze impacts on local residents and existing businesses that rely on the current landuse.2. Traffic and Visitation[bull] Assess the anticipated increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic resulting from expandedrecreation use.3. Infrastructure and Utilitieso Analyze the project's direct impacts on roads, utilities, water supply, sewer capacity, andany infrastructure expansion needs.4. Winter Use Impacts[bull] Evaluate the direct environmental impacts associated with increased winter recreationactivity, including snowmaking and trail usage.5. Summer Recreation and Land Use[bull] Consider the implications of increased summer recreation such as hiking, mountainbiking, OHV, and other outdoor activities on the forest ecosystem.o Seek an egress and ingress for OHV travel from Brain Head to the Red Desert OHVTrail.6. Grazing Resources[bull] Assess potential impacts on grazing allotments and associated range conditions.7 Wildlife Habitato Evaluate impacts on local wildlife populations, particularly elk, deer, grouse, and blackbears that utilize the area as summer habitat.Iron County appreciates the opportunity to provide these scoping comments and looks forward tocontinuing to collaborate with the Dixie National Forest to ensure that the forest is managed for multiplesustainable uses. We remain committed to supporting increased recreation opportunities whilesafeguarding the long-term health of our public lands and the well-being of the Iron County citizens.Sincerely,Paul CozzensChairman, Iron County CommissionCC: Jon Whittaker, County Clerk