

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2025 6:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: August 26,2025

P.N.# C-1135-0010-000Kevin Wright, Forest Supervisor, c/o Matt Loscalzo, Project Manager, Dixie National Forest Concern: The Brian Head Resort Expansion EISHello, I am writing today in opposition to the expansion of Brian Head Resort into the Dry Lakes area. This valley is inhabited by many species. We have deer, turkey, occasional Elk, on our property. They flourish there, where it is peaceful and uninhabited by a multitude of people. I ask, where do we keep pushing the wildlife to? Brian Head Resort will only disrupt the natural inhabitation of Dry Lakes, whether it be by ski slopes, restaurants, or any clearing and building. Most of the properties are owned families for generations, some have been bought by investors who no doubt would love to see this happen, so they can have their zoning changed and build Condominiums, stores ect. Dry Lakes Flora is unique, different than anywhere else in the Dixie National Forest and this is why we bought our property in 1989 which borders DNF land. The mixture of pine and aspen with grasses and fern, make it a unique haven to respect and escape to. Our property named "Camp Joy" is deeply bonded in memories. In 1989 we purchased our piece of heaven from our parents, Elton and Shirley Stratton. Every vacation was spent there with our children, extended family and close friends. Countless trips of fishing adventures, hiking, riding trips with our horses, hunting trips and endless nightly campfire conversations all deeply rooted in family values and dreams. In 2007 when the housing crash happened, our business partner wanted to declare bankruptcy and not pay several sub-contractors. My husband Mike and I decided we had to sell our property to pay these businesses, as they had families they were responsible for. We sold our property and paid our subcontractors. It was heartbreaking, but we did what responsible people do. For the next 14 years, we watched the property closely, I couldn't drive Dry Lakes Rd. without crying, yearning to one day see a "for sale" sign. The then owners didn't work the property to clear it from the dead fall from the Bark Beetle damage, it looked awful. Both of our children kept an eye on it too, as they also wanted it to be ours again. Our son Ven called it his "Heaven on Earth". We moved back to Utah in 2016. Ven would drive up there weekly to hopefully see a sign listing it for sale. On Father's Day weekend 2021 he came to our house and let us know that a for sale sign had been placed and it didn't even have dust on it. We jumped into our vehicle and drove up there, then went into Brian Head to the realtors office to inquire about the price. The owners were asking 25,000.00 more than what we had sold it for 14 years prior, and we bought it that day, all the while I was crying tears of joy. Since June of 2021, once again every weekend and mini vacation time has been spent clearing the property of all the dead fall, we have cleared 2 acres so far. My husband, son and daughter all with chainsaws in hand, have worked very hard to restore the property. We have cleared places to park our trailers and have enjoyed every moment of hard work and family time together. This June 2, 2025 we lost our son Ven in a motorcycle accident near our property. We had his Celebration of Life at our "Camp Joy" property to honor him, as it was his favorite place to be. We erected a Memorial to him in the spot he always park his ATV, since he was 12 years old. Friends and Family came from all over the United States to honor him, it was a beautiful day. Our property has so much attachment to us for over the past 32 years, we can't bear the thought of losing it to a tax base we can't afford or to the increase of people for commercial purposes. The very thought of the natural area being turned into another revenue earning base for an entity who values monetary gain, ski lifts, buildings, concrete and asphalt while destroying the refuge for wildlife is unfathomable. Please let the wildlife in the Dry Lakes area remain in their natural surroundings. Some have said, "Make money from it and buy another piece elsewhere". Some might find that acceptable, but there isn't another place that will be truly ours, as this piece of heaven cannot be recreated. I respectfully ask, When is Enough, Enough? Sincerely, Sheryl A. Stratton