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Organization: Burton Land and Livestock LLC

Title:

Comments: August 20 ,2025

Kevin Wright Dixie National Forest Supervisor 820 North Main Cedar City, Utah 84721 Dear Mr. Wright, We are writing and submitting this correspondence in regards to The Brian Head Resort Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Action. We are submitting this statement during the public comment period. As you know we have a grazing allotment which is affected by the proposed expansion of Brian Head Ski Resort. The area we are going to discuss is the Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod. This area impacts our grazing allotment. It is important to recognize existing authorized uses, and the impact on these existing uses. It is also important to consider the effect on the natural resources. We would first like to discuss the effect on natural resources. The Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod takes in an area that has many water sources in the form of springs and swampy areas that would be affected by ski runs. There is a main creek, along with smaller creeks, that would be affected by ski runs also. There are laws protecting these water sources. The west side of Navajo Ridge, the area described as the Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod, does not hold the snow like the area east of Navajo Ridge, and areas closer to "The Ledge" and Brian Head Peak. This area is a completely different ecosystem. The amount of snowfall in this area is significantly less than the present Brian Head Ski Resort area. The exposure is totally different-a west exposure. This would promote the need to make snow. Where is the water going to come from to produce this man-made snow? Water is a limited resource. This Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod is not now accessible to infrastructure, unlike the existing Brian Head Ski Area where water, sewer, roads, power and necessary services now exist. To introduce this area to a Ski Resort would destroy the integrity of this area and be a logistical nightmare. There needs to be areas of the Forest left alone from commercial development, and left for multiple use involving personal, historic, and natural uses. Brian Head Resort needs to show the need to expand into this Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod area. They should first show profitability and success of proposed expansion projects adjacent to the existing established Ski Resort, thus warranting the need to expand into this undeveloped area. There are historic sites that would be affected by ski runs in this area. The Old Sorrel Trail, and the Original Mill and Staging site, just to mention a few historical sites. These sites were used to provide lumber to construct the first building at SUU, and establish SUU. These areas and sites might be protected under a historical designation. Any time you introduce another and different use to an area, it has an effect on existing uses. This is a popular hunting area. This will definitely affect the wildlife, and have an impact on hunting, which is an established historic use of the area. This is also a popular area used for camping and private recreating by locals as well as non-locals. This has been a place on the Forest which is still in its pristine state, as much as possible, where the public can still enjoy some solitude without being encroached by a commercial resort. This Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod is adjacent to a designated Wilderness Area, known as the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area. This Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod would cross and encroach existing County Roads, this would cause right of way and safety issues. This Navajo Ridge to Dry Lakes Pod is approaching, and potentially encroaching on our private land. We do not, and will not endorse this. David Burton is a fifth generation rancher and resident of Parowan, and our children and grandchildren represent the sixth and seventh generations. Our family was in the first group that settled Parowan January 13, 1851. David Burton now serves on the Parowan City Council. We have a deep love and respect for Parowan and the surrounding area. We say this because it is imperative that the Forest Service protects the heritage of this area. The Forest Service needs to recognize the custom and culture of this area, and take this into consideration in decision making. The integrity and character of the local communities are more important than non-local commercial investors. The economic multiplier factor of local residents and business far exceeds the impact on local communities than distant and disconnected commercial investors. Now, to our personal concern. Our grazing permit will be affected. We have been told this expansion of Brian Head Resort will not affect our grazing allotment. If this is true, we ask that you, as Forest Supervisor, stipulate this in writing, and make it part of our Term Grazing Permit. This should not be a problem. Our established historic use should not be affected or jeopardized in any way as our family began grazing and ranching in this area long before the Forest Service ever came into existence and definitely longer

than Brian Head Ski Resort ever came into existence. The Forest Service's Original Mission Statement said, "When making decisions the Forest Service is to take into account the effect of the decision on the local economy". This is why the Forest Service was put under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, to manage the natural renewable resources i.e. (water, timber, grazing) which resources, communities that are contiguous to Mountain Forest areas, are dependent on.