Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2025 3:15:15 AM
First name: Jennifer
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: In your analysis, please consider the following issues:

1. Recreation and scenic values: Brian Head Peak is the highest point in the Cedar City Ranger District and one of the highest in the Dixie National Forest. If the summer recreation experience and scenic value are impacted by structures, utilities, and increased roads on the peak and ridge line, do equivalent accessible recreation and scenic experiences exist elsewhere in the District? Does the current proposal align with Forest Plan desired conditions for "natural features of the landscape [to] dominate" (IV-68) and direction to "provide a visually appealing landscape" (IV-69) in roaded natural recreation management areas (2B) (https://usfs-public.app.box.com/s/thrw2iwnw1ld6kgczifvbe3zrjpo5gpd/file/1793775061768; https://usfs-public.app.box.com/s/thrw2iwnw1ld6kgczifvbe3zrjpo5gpd/file/1793772388650)?

2. Wildlife: Please analyze the impacts to wildlife, especially high elevation (e.g. pika) and endemic (e.g. Brian Head snail) wildlife in the light of existing stressors on these species. If wildlife habitat is adversely impacted here, how will it be mitigated/do other areas in the Dixie provide alternative and sufficient habitat for the species?

3. Water: Please use projected trends in temperature, snowpack, and water availability to analyze the feasibility of all proposed runs. For runs without snowmaking, how much of the season will they have sufficient snow cover to be open, on average? For runs with snowmaking, will water availability and temperatures allow sufficient snowmaking to keep them open much of the season? Will this water use affect hydrologic conditions in the Forest or community water use? Will the anticipated frequency/level of use justify the trade offs in multiple use and scenic values for the peak and ridgeline areas of the proposal?
Is the proposed plan consistent with Forest Plan direction to "protect or improve the quality and quantity of municipal water supplies" (IV-156) in municipal water supply management areas (10B)?

Please consider an alternative that:

1. Excludes the Brian Head Peak special use permit expansion area;
2. Reduces the size of the East Ridge special use permit expansion area to only include the area around the Sid's Peak lifts.
3. Excludes the Peak Lift, Dragon Back Lift, Summit Lift, and potentially the Ridge Lift and Ridge Lift 2; and
4. Excludes the snowmaking lines and runs associated with the above lifts.

This would still achieve the resort's purpose of increasing capacity and diversifying the runs and amenities available: more than 15 lifts would still be added, more than doubling the current number of lifts, and the proposed amenities would still be included. At the same time, it would reduce impacts that would result from the current proposal to other multiple use values of the Dixie National Forest by preserving (to some degree) the scenic and summer recreational experience of the area; reducing impacts to high elevation and talus wildlife habitat; decreasing the draw-down of water by reducing the extent of snowmaking; and minimizing the potential effects to water quality, particularly in the municipal water supply area, that could result from construction and continued use.

Thank you very much for considering my comment.